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EDITORIAL ARTICLE URGES U.S. 'TO ACT QUICKLY'

PM291635 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 30 Jan 86 First Edition p 4

[Editorial article: "A Necessary Prerequisite"]

[Text] The world continues to actively discuss the large-scale new Soviet peace initiative put forward in the 15 January statement by M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee. The new Soviet proposals have touched the peoples' innermost feelings. Millions of people are asking: Could anything be more encouraging and inspiring than the real prospect of approaching the year 2000 without nuclear weapons?

A characteristic feature of the Soviet program for a nuclear-free world is its concrete and realistic nature. It does not only present for discussion by governments and peoples proposals elaborated in detail, divided into stages with set time frames, for ridding the planet of nuclear weapons. At the same time, it names the obstacles which could stand in the way of the resolution of this extremely urgent task. Chief among these obstacles is the Washington administration's intention to deploy space strike arms in near-earth space.

Mankind must see the two fundamentally different approaches to the question of the use of outer space clearly.

The Soviet Union, aware of its responsibility in the matter of preserving and strengthening peace, has, from the very start of the nuclear and space age, come out insistently against the use of space for military purposes, proposing concrete plans for the development of broad international cooperation in the study and utilization of extraterrestrial space for the benefit of all the peoples. This stance is an integral part of the unchanging foreign policy course of the CPSU and the Soviet State, which is characterized by the desire to focus attention on the constructive avenues which lead to averting the danger of war.

The Soviet Union calls on all states -- first and foremost, the United States -- to look at the situation prevailing in the world soberly and objectively. It is a reality of our time that, given the level achieved in the development of science and technology, the spread of the arms race to space carries the threat of the emergence of an extremely dangerous situation: the destabilization of the military-political situation and the stepping up of a race which will inevitably get out of control and put mankind in the path of irreversible processes. Hence, our efforts to prevent space from being turned into a potential theater of military operations.

"The USSR," M.S. Gorbachev stated, "regards the prevention of the spread of the arms race to space as a fundamental condition for the preservation of mankind."

Counterposed to this humane course is the fundamentally different U.S. course, which is dictated by the desire to turn space into a military bridgehead from which it would be possible to win domination on earth and dictate their own will to mankind by using space strike weapons.

Assurances that the "star wars" program -- in the propagandist guise of the "Strategic Defense Initiative" -- is supposedly only in the nature of harmless research cannot conceal its militarist essence, which is profoundly hostile to mankind's peace-loving aspirations. Under cover of these demagogic arguments, in reality an extensive process is taking place of creating [sozdaniye] space weapon systems which are by no means designed for defense. The point is that it is impossible to create a universal space defense; this is at best an illusion -- from the technical, economic, and political viewpoints.

But any "space shield" can very easily be turned into a "space sword." He who holds it in his hands might not resist the temptation to use it. That is the crux of the matter and the source of the Soviet position, which is dictated exclusively by the interest of preserving peace.

The "star wars" program incorporates the claims of earlier years to the attainment of U.S. military superiority. Militarist circles are unwilling to reconcile themselves to the ideas of military-strategic parity, which socialism has achieved. They still entertain the illusion that this parity is a temporary phenomenon and that by implementing the "star wars" program they will be able to return to lost times. The desire to use space to achieve decisive military superiority and create the potential for a first nuclear strike with impunity -- that is the true purpose of the notorious SDI.

It is a direct and dangerous encroachment on the cause of world peace. One condition of the maintenance of peace in the nuclear age is the maintenance of strategic stability. The Soviet Union and the other peace-loving states are advocating observance of the principle of equality and identical security, persistently seeking a lower level of armaments. The "star wars" program is dangerous because its implementation would result in the disappearance of the very foundation of strategic stability. It is naive to seek a solution to the security problem by refining the shield and the sword. Today there can be no U.S. security without Soviet security or security for the NATO countries without security for the Warsaw Pact states; without this there can be no general security.

Peaceful coexistence, relaxation of tension, lowering of the level of military confrontation, and strengthening of trust between countries -- this is the highway to peace in our time. But will it be possible to talk about trust between countries and tranquility for mankind when, with the development [sozdaniye] of space weapon systems, important decisions, irreversible in terms of their consequences, are being made by machines, not by people?

The U.S. Administration's obstinate desire to implement the "star wars" program at all costs has become the chief obstacle on the path to the attainment of a goal which all mankind wants -- the elimination of nuclear weapons. Claims that the implementation of SDI could lead to the elimination of nuclear weapons fool no one. Space strike weapons are being planned and developed [sozdavat] in addition to, rather than instead of the U.S. offensive nuclear potential.

Washington makes no secret of the fact that the paramount reason for the U.S. refusal to accept the Soviet proposal for a moratorium on nuclear weapon tests is that the tests are essential to the development [razrabotka] of a type of space strike weapon -- the X-ray laser which is triggered by a nuclear explosion. That is why certain U.S. circles would like to torpedo the 1972 Soviet-U.S. ABM Treaty which is an inhibiting factor in the unbridled nuclear arms race.

The announcement of the "star wars" program set alarm bells ringing all over the world. All peace-loving forces, including those in the United States, rose to combat the danger. Justice is certainly on the side of the sensible people in that country who say the question today is: either "star wars" or "star peace," either peaceful coexistence or the threat of total nonexistence. The wishes of states and peoples were graphically reflected by the recent vote at the UN General Assembly 40th session when essentially all members of the international community -- 151 states -- supported a resolution urging prevention of an arms race in space. The United States refused to vote for the resolution.

The U.S. Administration has said more than once that it is dedicated to the aim of completely eliminating nuclear weapons everywhere.

Washington has now been given a practical opportunity to do this. It is clear to any reasonable person that instead of wasting the next 10-15 years on developing [sozdaniya] new, extremely dangerous weapons in space, weapons that are extremely costly for mankind, weapons allegedly designed to make nuclear armaments unnecessary, it is far wiser to set about destroying these armaments and ultimately, reducing them to zero.

Our country has laid on the table at the Geneva talks on nuclear and space arms a proposal to halve Soviet and U.S. nuclear arms capable of reaching one another's territory. Adoption of such a proposal would be an important step toward completely eliminating nuclear weapons. Anyone who tries to padlock the solution of the problem of the nonmilitarization of space demonstrates by doing so that he does not want to halt the arms race on earth either. There is nothing fortuitous in the fact that the advocates of the nuclear arms race and the U.S. military-industrial complex bigwigs are ardent adherents of the "star wars" program. They are two aspects of the same flawed policy, which is incompatible with the desire of millions of people for a durable peace.

The Soviet Union's proposal for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons conceals no tactical calculations and is free of national egotism. The preservation of peace on earth matters to us above all else. As soon as nuclear weapons appeared in states' arsenals, it was precisely the Soviet Union that proposed banning them forever. The energy of the atom should serve peace only, the good of mankind exclusively -- that has been the invariable position of the CPSU and the Soviet State.

The Soviet Union has proposed, the countries and peoples, ensuring that the planet enters the third millennium not with a platform of "star wars," but with plans for the peaceful conquest of space by the efforts of all mankind. The program which it has submitted for destroying nuclear weapons is realistic and feasible. But, we repeat once again, the "star wars" concept is a most serious obstacle here. The Soviet Union has repeatedly warned that the creation [sozdaniya] of strike space weapons will cancel out [perecherknet] hopes of reducing nuclear arms on earth. We cannot allow the concupiscence of a handful of U.S. military-industrial complex bosses and their placemen to prevail over the vital interests of mankind.

Of course, if the United States nevertheless embarks on the path of creating [sozdaniye] space weapons, we will have to make an appropriate effective response. The Soviet Union has no fear of lagging behind in a space race if one is imposed on us. But that is not our choice; we do not want it.

Space should be peaceful. Its gates should be shut tight against weaponry. There should be no place there for space strike arms; indeed, they should not be created [sozdavatsya] at all. Peace can be preserved on earth and the sky above must remain clear. That is the imperious command of the times. That is the burden of historical responsibility which lies with the decisions and actions of states and governments in the period remaining until the start of the third millennium.

It is no longer enough to want to prevent nuclear war or just to understand where the threat of it stems from. To end the arms race once and for all and to turn the course of international events onto the rails of peaceful development, it is necessary for everyone -- governments, political parties, and peoples -- to act and to act quickly.

COMPUTERS'ROLE IN SDI PROGRAM CRITICIZED

LD292145 Moscow TASS in English 2117 GMT 29 Jan 86

[Text] Moscow, January 29 TASS -- TASS military news analyst Vladimir Bogachev writes:

According to the recommendations of specialists employed by the Pentagon, the U.S. "star wars" program should envision the deployment in space of several thousand units of strike weapons in seven tiers, mostly over the territories of socialist countries.

That space monster will be put together so that it could be switched into action instantaneously, without the other side detecting preparations for an act of aggression. This system should incorporate a huge number of computers to enable, as journalists say, transition from "manual" to "fully automatic" control of combat operations.

Computers should work out in a matter of seconds or at most minutes decisions of exceptional importance, which could take days, weeks or even months for hundreds of politicians and generals to arrive at in preparations for conventional warfare. Computers can thus make people obsolescent in deciding the question of nuclear war.

It is becoming more and more obvious that computers, even if they are ground-based, cannot guarantee 100 per cent dependability in decision making or produce absolutely correct conclusions and evaluations. Computer errors, which bring about regrettable consequences in peace time, can trigger world catastrophe in an international crisis.

Scientists say that computers involved in combat control under the "star wars" plans may activate the system of American space strike weapons in response to signals which have absolutely nothing to do with a nuclear missile attack, for instance, as a consequence of slight disturbances in the environment or even without them. The alerting of ABM systems as a result of such signals can be taken by the other side for preparation for the first strike with all the ensuing consequences of this move. THE WASHINGTON POST recently quoted a Pentagon scientist as saying about "star wars" computers that they do strange things which are impossible to predict and that they do one thing at one time and quite a different thing at another.

Pentagon specialists are now developing the so-called "expert system" of ABM computers, that is, a system of artificial intellect the program of which incorporates evaluations of the military-political situation with a view to taking decision on launching a war. This American program is a product of the mentality of those U.S. leaders who have an especially biased and even paranoid perception of the intentions of the Soviet Union and who are trigger-happy in conflict situations. One can imagine the consequences for the world if "star wars" computer programs are based on the evaluations of White House advisers Edward Teller or Colin Gray, who thinks that the USA can win a nuclear war.

Administration officials are trying to convince the Americans that as the "star wars" program goes ahead a "miracle" will happen, removing at one stroke all the extremely dangerous technological faults of U.S. space strike weapons and the electronic system controlling them. But these hopes are very illusory.

On the other hand, it is perfectly obvious that the continuation of the American "star wars" program can only lead to the dramatic destablization of the military-political situation in the world. Military-strategic parity will be restored but at a higher level -- all through the fault of the American side.

The risk of a nuclear outbreak will grow, inter alia, because of errors in the evaluation of the situation and in early warning systems and computers, and also because of the self-activation of components of the U.S. ABM system.

U.S. EQUATES SDI IMPORTANCE WITH NUCLEAR UPGRADE

LD301020 Moscow TASS in English 0929 GMT 30 Jan 86

[Text] Washington, January 30 TASS -- The Pentagon attaches paramount significance, along with the programmes of a build-up of the U.S. strategic nuclear arsenal, to the development of a large-scale anti-ballistic missile defense system with outer space-based elements. This is stressed in a secret directive of Caspar Weinberger, the Pentagon chief, on the guidelines for the construction of the U.S. Armed Forces, which was signed on December 31 last year. This directive, the AP agency said, is the basic document used by the command of the kinds of the service of the U.S. Armed Forces in determining long-term plans. According to the UPI agency, it is for the first time that in a directive of the U.S. defence secretary, the "star wars" program is placed, in its importance, on a par with the programmes for a modernization of the U.S. strategic nuclear force.

OUTLINE OF POSSIBLE MBFR DECISION 'TAKING SHAPE'

LD291953 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1600 GMT 29 Jan 86

[Igor Charikov commentary]

[Text] The present round of talks in Vienna will take place in a qualitatively new situation. It has arisen thanks to the new, constructive action of the Soviet leadership. In his statement of 15 January this year, Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev proposed a step-by-step plan for reducing and ultimately, liquidating the arsenals of nuclear weapons. The realistic and large-scale nature of the plan and the concrete ways in which it could be implemented have earned a positive response from the governing circles of a whole series of countries.

It is common knowledge that the new Soviet initiative contains a proposal dealing with conventional weapons and armed forces. The Soviet Union proposes that conventional weapons and armed forces should also be subject to agreed reductions. The signal for the start of movement in this direction, as Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev's statement indicates, could be given by an accord at the Vienna talks. The talks are now in their 13th year without any visible results, even though the Soviet Union and other Warsaw Pact states have frequently presented to the West -- that is, to the United States and its allies -- one proposal after another. But the West has rejected all these proposals on various far-fetched pretexts.

On 14 February last year, the socialist countries directly taking part in the Vienna talks tabled a draft of the main points for an agreement on an initial reduction by the Soviet Union and the United States of their land forces and armaments, and on their subsequent non-enlargement. The document contains practical measures for lowering the military confrontation in the center of Europe. At the end of the last round, the Western side tabled a counterproposal. Now the outlines of a possible decision on reducing Soviet and U.S. forces seem to be taking shape. As for the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries that are members of the Warsaw Pact, they are determined to achieve success at the Vienna talks. If the other side is really seeking the same outcome also, this year could be a landmark for the Vienna talks as well.

GENEVA STRATEGIC ARMS SESSION HELD 29 JAN

LD291546 Moscow TASS in English 1528 GMT 29 Jan 86

[Text] Geneva, January 29 TASS -- A group on strategic arms held a meeting here today within the framework of the Soviet-U.S. negotiations on nuclear and space arms.

SOVIET STAND ON ARMS VERIFICATION EXPLAINED

PM281904 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russain 29 Jan 86 First Edition p 5

[A. Mozgovoy article: "A Barrier Against Nuclear Death Into the 21st Century -- Without Weapons!"]

[Text] Many words, a great deal of time, and a lot of paper have been wasted by politicians and propagandists in the United States and other NATO states to blow up the issue of the difficulties of monitoring [kontrol] the observance of arms limitation agreements. Every time the Soviet Union has put forward constructive peace-loving initiatives, the problem of the verification [proverka] of treaty obligations has immediately surfaced. Matters have been presented as if the Soviet Union is a vehement opponent of comprehensive monitoring [kontrol]."

Of course, such claims are totally divorced from reality. Our country has always been and remains an advocate of reliable verification [kontrol]. But we approach this problem objectively; not as part of general declarations. After all, every avenue of arms limitation and reduction demands its own particular inspections and its own specific methods and means for their implementation; in other words, verification [kontrol] must match the volume and nature of the obligations that are undertaken. Observance of the implementation of agreements and treaties must be built on the principle of equal security and nondetriment to any side.

The term "arms control [kontrol]" instead of "disarmament verification [kontrol]" has become estabished in the United States. This is, of course, not without purpose. In the West the substance of the question is in fact often reduced to gaining an opportunity for spying on the structure and activity of the Soviet Armed Forces. It is obvious Soviet Union cannot agree to such "control [kontrol]."

Suddenly and recently, however, Washington and other NATO capitals have been playing up the problem of monitoring [kontrol] less and less frequently and are new trying to avoid it altogether. What has happened?

In a number of his latest statements, Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev repeatedly turned to the subject of disarmament verfication [kontrol]. Our country's views on this issue are stated most fully and comprehensively in the statement by the general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee. This most important political document makes it obvious that verification [kontrol] is no problem for the Soviet Union.

In the first place, the Soviet measures apply to nuclear arms, which it is proposed to completely eliminate by the end of 1999. The verification [proverka] of arms limitation and destruction at each stage must be effected both by national technical means and by on-site inspections. The Soviet Union is prepared to seek agreement on any other additional verification [kontrol] measures.

Existing national means of observation, including satellites and seismological, radar, and other radioelectronic stations, are highly effective.

According to research carried out by associates of the prestigious U.S. Center for Defense Information, they are capable of effecting practically 100-percent verification [proverka] in such spheres as tracking nuclear explosions; tests and deployment of ballistic missiles; construction, tests, and deployment of nuclear-capable aircraft and submarines; and tests of space weapons. In fact, satellites now make it possible to read the license plates on motor vehicles, while the observation of what is being done with massive strategic complexes is even less of a problem.

In accordance with the Soviet disarmament program, both nuclear charges and the means for their delivery must be subject to destruction. Some types of delivery vehicles are obviously capable of being converted; for the purposes of geophysical and space research, for example. So, recourse may be had to on-site inspections and to international verification [kontrol] measures as regards the observance of complex procedures in the destruction of nuclear combat ammunition and the dismantling, liquidation, or conversion of delivery vehicles.

After completion of the third stage, when there are no more nuclear weapons on earth, all countries will draw up a universal accord -- verifiable by means of joint efforts, of course -- in order to prevent these weapons from ever being brought back again. "And so we propose," the statement emphasizes, "to enter the third millennium without nuclear weapons on the basis of mutually acceptable and strictly verifiable accords."

In order to achieve this aim, we must, above all, block all channels of improving nuclear weapons. This is a priority task. The reduction of strategic arsenals without banning nuclear tests is no solution to the dilemma of the threat of thermonuclear war because the remaining weapons could be modernized and the likelihood of the creation [sozdaniye] of increasingly lethal and sophisticated weapons (neutron or X-ray laser type weapons) would remain. In other words, ending tests is an essential practical step toward the elimination of nuclear arms. The introduction of a comprehensive moratorium would also provide a reliable machinery for verifying [kontrol] nuclear disarmament.

The Soviet Union favors the intensification of talks on concluding an effective and verifiable international convention on banning chemical weapons and destroying existing stockpiles of these weapons.

At the Vienna talks on armed force and limitation and reduction in Central Europe, NATO representatives are citing the same old problem of verification [kontrol] as the main obstacle preventing achievement of an agreement. However, the Warsaw Pact countries are no less interested in proper verification [proverka]. The Soviet leader's statement points out that a possible accord would, naturally, require sensible verification [kontrol]. This implies, in addition to national technical means, exchanges of the musters of military units subject to reduction and reciprocal notification of the beginning and completion of the process of reduction. It is also envisaged that each side would establish three or four observation posts for the duration of the withdrawal. Permanently manned verification [kontrol] posts would monitor the entry and exit of all military contingents to and from the reduction zone.

The Soviet program for disarmament and verification [kontrol] is not to the detriment of any side. The stance taken by the United States and its NATO allies was quite different, at least until quite recently. The United States also allegedly favors verification [kontrol]. It has proposed, for instance, inviting Soviet representatives to attend nuclear tests. But for what purpose? In order to condone the process of improving nuclear arsenals by their presence, perhaps? It is also talking about the desirability of providing "free access" to laboratories engaged in space technology research. Yes, we favor such inspections [proverki].

However, as M.S. Gorbachev has noted, if "laboratories are to be opened up, then it must be solely for purposes of verifying [kontrol] the ban on the creation [sozdaniye] of space strike weapons and by no means in order to legalize them."

Strict and reliable verification [kontrol] of the process of disarmament rather than of the arms race, this is the essence of the Soviet Union's stance. This approach opens up broad prospects for strengthening security and establishing firm trust between states.

EUROPEAN ASPECTS OF ARMS PROPOSAL DISCUSSED

LD292250 Moscow in English to Great Britain and Ireland 2000 GMT 29 Jan 86

["Transcript" of studio discussion with Doctor of Law Vadim Sobakin and Dr Lev Semeyko of the USSR Academy of Sciences United States of America and Canada Institute, moderated by Nikolay Borin, not further identified]

[Excerpts] [Borin] My first question is related to the first stage of a 15-year plan for eliminating nuclear weapons proposed by Mikhail Gorbachev in his statement. The Soviet Union, as you know, has said before that it is in favor of eliminating nuclear weapons and it has proposed ways of setting up a nuclear-free zone in Europe. As we can see from Mikhail Gorbachev's statement, the problem of nuclear disarmament in the next 5-8 years will be related very closely indeed to European issues. So what in you view is the new element in the Soviet proposal providing for both the Americans and the Soviet Union to renounce their nuclear forces in Europe? The question to you, Dr Semeyko

[Semeyko] Mikhail Gorbachev paid special attention to Europe in his statement because the troop concentrations of the Warsaw Treaty and NATO are at a maximum here. Besides the nuclear weapons held by the Soviet Union and the United States in Europe, there also are considerable British and French nuclear forces accounting for a quarter of NATO's delivery vehicles. Britain and Feance are planning to increase the number of their warheads to 1,200 in the nineties.

[Borin] Some people in the West are claiming that actually the Soviet Union has copied what was termed the zero option proposed by President Reagan back in November 1983. So what can you say about that, Dr Sobakin?

[Sobakin] That is not correct. Our proposal is new in principle. President Reagan's proposal boils down to eliminating Soviet medium-range nuclear weapons in Europe and Asia and stopping at that. In our new proposal we consider the issue of eliminating Soviet and American missiles as an integral part of nuclear disarmament as a whole. Another important distinction is that President Reagan did not propose that British and French nuclear forces be frozen, nor did he stipulate that the USSR and the United States should not transfer their technology and nuclear weapons to other nations.

[Borin] Now is there any connection between the proposal for freezing nuclear weapons in Western Europe and renouncing further deployment of these weapons there with the proposals made by Mikhail Gorbachev at the Paris and Geneva summits for bilateral talks between the USSR and France and Britain?

[Semeyko] Mikhail Gorbachev proposed consultations that may, if any progress is achieved at them, become talks. If Britain and France do not want nuclear weapons to explode on their territories, if they are interested in survival and eliminating nuclear weapons, such consultations could start now. Perhaps an agreement could be reached whereby Britain and France would not build up their nuclear forces while American and Soviet medium-range nuclear missiles are reduced.

This would pave the way to the success of the first stage of eliminating nuclear weapons in Europe.

SEMEYKO ARTICLES EXPLORE U.S. DISARMAMENT ATTITUDES

U.S. Nuclear Strategy

PM241631 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 23 Jan 86 First Edition p 3

[Article by L. Semeyko under the rubric "Whence the Threat to Peace": "At the Danger Line"; first two paragraphs are paper's introduction]

[Excerpts] "The citadel of international reaction is U.S. imperialism," the draft new edition of the CPSU Program says. "It is the primary source of the threat of war." Hatching dangerous militarist plans, Washington is continuing its pursuit of the impossible dream of military superiority. As CPSU Central Committee General Secretary M.S. Gorbachev's statement says, "actions are being taken which are clearly intended to arouse hostility and distrust and revive the antithesis of detente -- a confrontation situation."

Today we are publishing the first in a series of articles dealing with problems on whose solution the fate of peace depends.

The enormous destructive power of nuclear and thermonuclear weapons gave rise among the militarist circles of U.S. imperialism to the desire to acquire the capability to totally neutralize [obezoruzhivaniyiye] the other side. Recent decades have seen an emphasis on the massive creation of highly accurate missiles. But it is becoming increasingly obvious to the makers of transatlantic military policy and stategy that the creation of strategic offensive armaments alone cannot solve the task of neutralization [obezoruzhivaniye], that is, acquiring military superiority. This also gave rise to a quest for new strategic military and technical military options.

Furthermore, rapid progress in the technical military sphere in the past four decades has also led to the objective conclusion that it is necessary to eliminate that which was thereby created through the political will of the imperialist forces and to which the Soviet side has adopted -- solely for defensive purposes -- effective retaliatory measures. Despite all the differences between the approaches of the Soviet Union and the United States, of East and West, the process of curbing the nuclear arms race became not only necessary, but possible. It has taken place in difficult conditions, with its ups and down, but it has been possible and it remains possible today, as long as the U.S. side does not cross the new -- nuclear-space -- Rubicon.

The possibility was also stated at the Soviet-U.S. summit in Geneva, although the meeting failed to find solutions to the very important questions pertaining to the task of halting the arms race and strengthening peace.

Practical ways to solve this problem of great importance to the future of mankind were clearly defined in the statement by CPSU Central Committee General Secretary M.S. Gorbachev. This impressive document sets out a concrete program for the total elimination of nuclear weapons worldwide in the 15 years that remain before the beginning of the third millennium. The new Soviet initiatives, which meet the aspirations of all peoples, aroused enormous interest all over the world.

But there are influential forces in the United States who are continuing to advocate the militarization of space, which would radically alter the military political situation in the world.

The danger of mutual nuclear destruction would be greatly magnified. The most aggressive and adventurist forces of U.S. imperialism might consider it permissible to have not only local, small wars, but a global nuclear missile war involving the total utilization of accumulated nuclear arsenals. This approach would be based on the idea -- as illusory as it is fatal -- of "at last" having acquired an opportunity to deliver a neutralizing strike with impunity. It would combine the utilization of strategic offensive armaments and strike weapons created on the basis of the latest technical military achievements and deployed in space. Such shifts in strategic thinking would have not just far-reaching, but absolutely fatal consequences.

On the political plane it would undermine the possibility of establishing normal, stable relations between the Soviet Union and the United States based on maximum mutual trust. A U.S. refusal to seek constructive solutions to problems of war and peace -- and these solutions must ensure real mutual survival in the nuclear age, not a "balance of terror," (ever increasing terror, what is more) -- such a refusal would be bound to increase international tension. It would call into question the very possibility of a large-scale reduction of nuclear armaments and this would adversely affect the entire disarmament process -- in all spheres. Reducing its strategic nuclear potential in a situation where the United States was countering it with an antimissile shield would mean, as far as the Soviet Union was concerned, consciously agreeing to reduce its own nuclear retaliation potential.

In the strategic military plane U.S. acknowledgment of the inevitability of mutual destruction as a result of a nuclear war would be replaced by a gamble on the possibility of one-sided destruction. It could ensure, they say, after the Soviet Union, having been "neutralized" by a first strike, refuses to surrender to the United States, which still has an unused strategic nuclear reserve. Such a gamble would radically undermine existing strategic stability.

In the technical-military sphere the start of the militarization of space would mark the start of unbridled competition in the development [sozdaniye] of modern and ultramodern strategic weapons, including space strike weapons. The development [sozdaniye] and deployment of the U.S. antimissile shield weapons would immediately give rise to the development [sozdaniye] of weapons to neutralize it in order to preserve the possibility of a retaliatory nuclear strike and prevent the United States from undermining the strategic military balance. The United States would then take new steps to implement its aggressive designs. All this would whip up the arms race both in space and on earth.

The Soviet Union is issuing a warning: The danger line, beyond which mankind can expect terrible and irreversible consequences, must not be crossed. It is necessary, first of all, to renounce plans for the militarization of space. This would pave the way for the elimination of nuclear weapons by the year 2000. As M.S. Gorbachev's statement says, "one must enter the third millennium not with a 'star wars' program, but with large-scale projects for the peaceful exploration of space through the efforts of all mankind."

But in the higher reaches of power in the United States it looks as if they have not heeded the voice of reason. It is apparent from Defense Secretary C. Weinberger's statement that the Pentagon does not intend to abandon its "star wars" plans. Not crossing the danger line also means renouncing plans for the development [sozdaniye] of brand-new nuclear armaments. The importance of such a renunciation is in no way diminished in a situation where main attention is focused on preventing the militarization of space.

The Soviet Union has once again demonstrated its willingness to do all it can to improve the international situation, eliminate the threat of nuclear war, and provide reliable security for present and future generations. It is now up to the United States.

U.S. Nuclear 'Adventurism'

PM271158 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 24 Jan 86 First Edition p 3

[L. Semeyko article under the "Whence the Threat to Peace" rubric: "Policy of Military Adventurism"]

[Text] Averting the threat of nuclear war and preventing the irremediable is now the central political task. It must be resolved by common efforts, without delay, and with exceptional responsibility. "The Soviet Union," M.S. Gorbachev pointed out, "proceeds in its policy on the basis that in the nuclear age people on earth are in the same boat. And rocking that boat with military adventurism is an extremely irresponsible act. Life itself rejects political levity these days."

A different approach to this most important of problems is characteristic of U.S. ruling circles, whose policy -- if we proceed on the basis of practice, rather than rhetorical statements -- is imbued with military adventurism. It is multifaceted. It includes gambling on gaining military supremacy, aspirations for global imperial, military space ambitions, and, judging by all this, a still-present faith in the possibility of winning a nuclear clash. It includes military-political adventurism which, on the one hand, is based on the illusion of military and technical superiority, and on the other, forms the basis of the continuous new U.S. ventures in the arms race. What is the essence and particular danger of this approach?

As is well known, science and technology by themselves do not pose a threat to peace. The threat is posed by imperialism and its policy -- a policy of the most reactionary militarist and aggressive forces of the day. The way in which scientific and technical achievements are used -- in the interests of peace or war -- ultimately depends on politicians' attitudes to the problems of war and peace. From this standpoint, the results of the first 40 nuclear years attest to the fact that the United States has invariably pursued a policy of military-political and military-technical adventurism.

The adventurism of the entire U.S. postwar (and particularly, current) military-technical policy lies in its thrust. First, it is seen in the continuous absolutism [absolyutizatsiya] of arms. Second, it is seen in the orientation toward offensive military-strategic goals and third, in the unswerving gamble on military-technical superiority.

Adventurism of the first designation has been and continues to be to irresponsibly ignore the obvious fact that in the nuclear age security cannot be ensured through military-technical means. Ensuring security is, first and foremost, a political task.

Adventurism of the second designation is that in the nuclear age an offensive and aggressive strategy is shortsighted and suicidal, it leads unambiguously to catastrophe. However, the creators of this strategy were hypnotized by the desire to ensure the "guaranteed destruction" of the Soviet Union through the creation of almost 30,000 diverse nuclear charges and thousands of delivery means.

And adventurism of the third designation has been expressed (and will always be expressed) in the fact that it is senseless, useless, and extremely dangerous to strive for military superiority over the Soviet Union.

However, the forces of militarism and aggression in the United States underestimate the Soviet potential and clearly overestimate the scope of U.S. military, industrial, scientific,and technological potential. They believe this potential can provide them with military superiority in the future, just as -- in their opinion -- it once did in the past.

But this has always led to a kind of boomerang effect. In response to U.S. attempts to gain a nuclear monopoly the Soviet Union created -- and in an extremely short period -- first, atomic and later, thermonuclear weapons. Subsequently, the calculations on the invulnerability provided to U.S. territory by the oceans collapsed. The loss of this invulnerability with the Soviet creation of intercontinental delivery means was obvious to all. Military-strategic parity was achieved, which was an historic socialist gain. However, even under these conditions the desire for military superiority continued to gear U.S. military policy and military-technical thinking to new adventurist solutions. These decisions have now been made in the sphere of the qualitative arms race for around 2 decades. It is believed that in this sphere it will be possible to acquire unilateral advantages which would make it possible to alter the correlation of nuclear arms in favor of the United States.

It was to this end that, from the beginning of the seventies, the United States started equipping ground- and sea-launched ballistic missiles with MIRVed warheads. As a result, over the last decade the number of strategic nuclear charges in the United States has doubled. But even in this sphere the Soviet Union swiftly found an adequate response. As a result, military-strategic parity has been maintained, but maintained at a much higher level of nuclear confrontation.

What conclusions has the U.S. military-political leadership drawn from this? However paradoxical, it has seen all this as a pretext for expediting efforts to create a "disabling potential" in the eighties and nineties. The "Scowcroft Commission" recommendations on this score approved by the President in January 1983 are typical: U.S. strategic forces should be "capable of threatening the destruction of Soviet targets, including heavily defended military command centers, missile silos, nuclear and other weapons stockpiles, and other targets."

Of course, the accord reached at the Soviet-U.S. summit in Geneva that the sides will not strive for military superiority is of great importance. But the two sides must implement this accord straightaway. Hitherto, alas, there is no evidence that Washington is making the necessary shifts in strategic thinking or is planning to abandon the implementation of provocative strategic programs.

The U.S. course of creating space strike arms is generating particular concern worldwide. Both its desire to acquire military superiority and the adventurism of U.S. military-technical policy is seen most clearly. The calculation is that the United States will be able to have a virtual monopoly on the militarization of space. Those are dangerous illusions!

The Soviet Union is capable of ensuring the sufficiently speedy and rational resolution of any defense tasks that arise. "Our material and intellectual potential," the statement by M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, says, "makes it possible for the Soviet Union to create any weapon if we are forced to." The Soviet Union is a country of advanced science and technology. It was the first to create an artificial earth satellite. And not only a satellite. The first passenger jet aircraft, the first nuclear power station, the first nuclear icebreaker, and the first laser were all ours. The Soviet Union is preeminent in the world in terms of the number of inventions and produces almost one-third of the world's annual scientific output and one-fifth of all solutions to technical problems. However, some people in U.S. ruling circles underestimate Soviet scientific and technical potential and clearly overestimate their own: Not for nothing did G. Kennan, the eminent U.S. scholar, note with sorrow that the United States "has no real specialists on the Soviet Union. There are just different levels of ignorance." The Pentagon calculations to leave the Soviet Union behind in terms of military technology are not only unfeasible, but dangerous. Dangerous because of their adventurist desire to create a wholly unique offensive and defensive disabling potential, in which even so-called "defensive" means would ultimately be aimed at resolving first-strike offensive tasks.

These calculations cannot be deemed anything but evidence of the aggressive thrust in military-technical policy and U.S. military strategy pursued in the hope of a victorious outcome to a nuclear war. To continue to chase the impossible dream of military superiority is a fruitless and dangerous policy. A policy unworthy of the level of civilization which present-day society has reached.

The peoples are demanding practical measures from Washington -- that it refuse to create arms which would seemingly make nuclear war "admissible." And first and foremost, that is refuse to create space strike arms. This would make it possible to embark on a radical reduction in nuclear arsenals and on their subsequent elimination by the start of the next millennium.

Contradictions in SDI

PM281020 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 25 Jan 86 First Edition p 5

[L. Semeyko article under the "Whence the Threat to Peace" rubric: "Rushing Into Space"]

[Text] When it is a question of attitudes to the problem of the militarization of space, it is not difficult to note a clear contradiction in the present U.S. military-political course. On the one hand, the commitment enshrined in the joint statement on the results of the Soviet-U.S. summit in Geneva is to prevent an arms race in space. On the other hand, there is the stubborn U.S. refusal to agree to the Soviet proposal for a total ban on space strike arms. To all intents and purposes Washington has set its sights on preparing for "star wars."

It is a question of turning a planned antimissile shield in space into a disabling means: According to Pentagon calculations, the "remaining" Soviet missiles and warheads that survive a massive US.S. nuclear strike and are launched in retaliation are intended to be destroyed by this shield. It is a question of the possiblity of striking against targets on earth directly from combat stations located in space. Finally, it is also a question of the possibility of the emergence of fundamentally new ways of striking from space. All this would mean increasing the threat; not only to the Soviet Union, but to all mankind, to a new and qualitatively more dangerous level.

The Soviet Union is doing everything to prevent such a dangerous development of events. "The range of new foreign policy initiatives proposed by us," the statement by M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, says, "is aimed at ensuring that mankind greets the year 2000 under a peaceful sky and space, preventing mankind from fearing a nuclear, chemical, or any other threat of destruction and ensuring that mankind may be firmly confident of its own survival and of the continuance of the human race."

The United States is making attempts to present space strike means as something harmless. President Reagan states that they are "defensive" means and that they "threaten nobody." Pentagon chief Weinberger claims it is just a question of a war between opposing equipment rather than between people. "Star wars," apparently, will be no more frightening than traditional conventional wars; moreover, U.S. territory will allegedly be the most defended territory on the planet.

This interpretation of "star wars" and their consequences is aimed at naive simpletons. With the deployment of the arms race into space the danger of a nuclear war (indded nuclear!) is sharply increased. Partly because, in the thinking of the U.S. military-political leadership, space strike arms are to "coexist" with strategic nuclear arms. "It is no accidnet," M.S. Gorbachev's statement says, "that the supporters of the nuclear arms race are also jealous supporters of the 'star wars' program. They are two sides of the same policy that is hostile to people's interests."

Not one of the current U.S. strategic programs has been curtailed. Many thousands of new nuclear munitions will be stockpiled before the end of this decade. Third-generation "superweapons" are being created -- specifically, an x-ray laser which transforms the energy of a nuclear explosion into powerful laser radiation. A whole dozen new types and kinds of nuclear munitions are being tested. Washington intends to continue these tests despite the calls of the world community for them to be stopped and for the United States to join the Soviet unilateral moratorium on nuclear explosions, which, as is well known, the Soviet Union has extended until 31 March 1986.

It is planed to expedite the buildup of the Pentagon's nuclear potential even more if, say, the Soviet Union were forced to create its own large-scale ABM system as a retaliatory measure. As Weinberger has stated, this would trigger the "need to increase our own (U.S.) offensive forces and to build up their ability to overcome Soviet defense systems." In other words, at the same time as the U.S. President is promising some kind of "non-nuclear realm" under a militarized space (nuclear weapons would allegedly become "useless and obsolete"), his defense minister is openly stating the opposite: Space strike arms will not exist by themselves, they need to be combined with nuclear arms.

Nor does the Pentagon chief make any secret of the fact that he would essentially like a return to a U.S. nuclear monopoly. "If," he says, "we can obtain a system which will be effective and make the Soviet Union's arms ineffective, we will return to the situation we were in when we were the only country with nuclear weapons." Just so! With a mighty leap into space the Pentagon would like to sharply upset Soviet-U.S. strategic equilibrium and return to the situation prevailing 40 years ago. One wonders just how these schemes can be tied in with President R. Reagan's official abandonment at the Geneva summit of the intention to acquire military supremacy? Clearly, as we can see, there are glaring contradictions between declarations and reality in U.S. policy which reveal the real goals of U.S. imperialism.

The United States intends to achieve supremacy in its militarist rush into space through deploying antisatellite weapons it is believed overseas, would make it possible for the United States to suddenly "blind" the Soviet Union. "A strike using antisatellite means against early-warning satellites could open up the way for a quite effective surprise first strike against targeted nuclear arms and control centers," D. (Kerr), one of the U.S. leaders of the program for the militarization of space, stated.

Another impossible aim described by the well-known U.S. specialists (J. Ratzhens) and (J. Ruina) is also obvious here: "To prompt the Soviet Union to not consider ICBM's as the main buttress of its nuclear forces and to replace them with other systems." In other words, to attempt to make the Soviet Union restructure the very foundations of its strategic might in such a way as to give the United States the advantage once again.

The logic of the proponents of a first disabling strike is crudely simple: The United States will be invulnerable and the Soviet Union vulnerable. Soviet strategic forces will be undermined by a surprise strike while U.S. territory will be invulnerable to a retaliatory strike. Moreover, the United States will retain a strategic nuclear reserve for subsequently destroying the Soviet population "if it does not capitulate."

These perfidious schemes are admitted by sober-minded U.S. specialists. Here, for instance, is what S. Hoffmann, the eminent political scientist, wrote in the New York review of books: The Soviet Union has every justification for believing that the "combination of the expedited buildup of the colossal arsenals of offensive first-strike arms (MX missiles, new high-accuracy warheads on other ICBM's, D-5 missiles on submarines, Pershing-2's, and Stealth bombers) with U.S. defense systems will make it possible for the United States to weaken a Soviet retaliatory strike."

The "star wars" program, which is presented as the "Strategic Defense Initiative" for cover, is part and parcel of the programs intended for the implementation of offensive nuclear strategy. The main function of space strike arms is to resolve the task of disarming the Soviet Union as effectively as possible.

Thus, the plans for a U.S. military rush into space are not something isolated. Moreover, they are by no means defensive. Their true aggressive essence is revealed when they are seen in conjunction with the plans to build up strategic offensive arms. If U.S. nuclear strategy and its aggressive military doctrine are also taken into account it becomes even more obvious that the U.S. forces of aggression and reaction are rushing into space, threatening the security of the Soviet Union on a much greater scale than before. At the same time this poses a threat to international security as a whole and a threat to the existence of life itself on earth.

"Mankind," M.S. Gorbachev's statement says, "is at a crucial stage of the new space age. It is time to abandon Stone Age thinking when the main concern was to provide oneself with a bigger stick or a heavier stone. We are against weapons in space." Now people are demanding that statesmen abandon their caveman logic in political thinking and have a keener recognition of their responsibility for the peoples' destiny, which would accord with the aspirations of all mankind. But for this it is necessary for Washington to look realistically at the military-political situation in the world and revise itsown exceptionally dangerous militarist approaches to the resolution of the most important problems of war and peace before it is too late.

SOVIET ARMS PROPOSAL SEEN AS 'BLUEPRINT' FOR PEACE

LD261048 Moscow TASS in English 1016 GMT 26 Jan 86

[Text] Brussels, January 26 TASS -- TASS correspondent Albert Balebanov reports: The proposals made in a statement by Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, on disarmament issues are a large-scale and concrete plan for ridding mankind of the threat of nuclear disaster, Academician Yevgeniy Velikhov, vice-president of the Soviet Academy of Sciences and a member of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, told a news conference here. He is staying in Brussels at the invitation of the Belgian Parliament's Foreign Relations Commission.

What is needed to fulfil the plan, he said, is the good will of all nuclear powers and their political striving to do away with nuclear weapons. The Soviet program presupposes that outer space remains free from any arms. This means that the United States should renounce its "star wars" program because its implementation would scuttle the entire process of limiting arms and open the way to outer space to all classes of weapons.

The Soviet proposals, the scientist said in an answer to a journalist's question, imply not only quantitative but also qualitative reductions of arms. They are a true blueprint for improving the international situation. Mankind is now at the crossroads and everything hinges on the choice it makes. A general end to nuclear testing could be a step in the right direction. "We hope that the United States will joint the Soviet moratorium on all nuclear explosions," Velikhov said.

He had a meeting with members of the Belgian Parliament's Foreign Relations Commission.

FISCHER RECEIVES PACT DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTERS

LD292108 Moscow TASS in English 2044 GMT 29 Jan 86

[Text] Berlin, January 29 TASS -- GDR Foreign Minister Oscar Fischer received here today the participants in a conference of deputy foreign ministers of the Warsaw Treaty member states. Taking part in the meeting were deputy foreign ministers of Bulgaria, Hungary, GDR, Poland, Romania, USSR and Czechoslovakia. There was an exchange of opinions on topical questions of the present. Questions of rallying all progressive forces of the world in the interests of the struggle for peace and prevention of a nuclear catastrophe were discussed.

ZIMYANIN MEETS FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY LEADERS

LD240044 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1800 GMT 23 Jan 86

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] Comrade Zimyanin, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, today received general secretaries of societies of friendship with the Soviet Union from Bulgaria, Hungary, Vietnam, the GDR, the DPRK, Cuba, Laos, Mongolia, Poland and Czechoslovakia. The chairmen of the societies of friendship from the fraternal countries were informed about preparations in the Soviet Union for the 27th CPSU Congress and about the backing of the whole people for the new peaceful initiatives which were set forth in Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev's statement. The conversation passed in a warm and comradely atmosphere.

GORBACHEV DISARMAMENT STATEMENT RELEASED AT UN

LD291742 Moscow TASS in English 1648 GMT 29 Jan 86

[Text] New York, January 29 TASS -- The text of a statement by Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, on questions of disarmament of January 15, 1986, has been released at the United Nations as an official document of the U.N. General Assembly.

MEDITERRANEAN SOCIALISTS END EMERGENCY SESSION

LD181238 Moscow TASS In English 1000 GMT 18 Jan 86

[Text] Tripoli, January 18 TASS -- By TASS correspondent Georgiy Shelenkov.

The organization of socialist and progressive parties of Mediterranean countries have closed its emergency session in the Libyan capital. Its participants, representing more than twenty socialist and workers' parties in the Mediterranean, as well as several all-Arab organizations and trade union, discussed the volatile situation in the region brought about by U.S. and Israeli war preparations.

Having expressed resolute support for the Libyan people in their opposition to aggressive plots of American imperialism and Zionism, they qualified these actions as a gross violation of international norms and laws. The session's participants called for concerted effort by all peoples to seek to turn the Mediterranean Sea into a zone of peace, security and cooperation, free from foreign imperialist military bases and fleets. The organization expressed solidarity with all peoples in the region upholding their freedom and independence, specifically the Arab Palestinian people who are waging just struggles for the exercise of their legitimate rights.

Michael Olimpios [spelling as received], member of the Central Committee of the Progressive Party of the Working People [AKEL] of Cyprus, stressed the topicality of the international forum in Tripoli. "We regard the U.S. was preparations against Libyan Jamahiriyah," he said to the TASS correspondent, "as a real threat to all Mediterranean peoples, as part of the overall strategy of American imperialism in the region." Withing the framework of this strategy, specifically, Washington is contemplating the transformation of Cyprus into a strong point for its Rapid Deployment Force units. The implementation of such plans would spell catastrophe for the Cypriot people. The peaceful future of the Mediterranean, Olimpios stressed, is possible only on the condition of the withdrawal from the region of the unbidden guests -- the American military.

OFFICIAL INTERVIEWED ON HOSTING OF 1988 OLYMPICS

PM271908 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 23 Jan 86 First Edition p 3

[Interview with K.A. Andrianov, member of the International Olympic Committee, by V. Sinyavskiy: "The International Olympic Committee's Stance on the Choice of Olympic Games Capital: 'They Belong to the Whole World'" -- first two paragraphs are editorial introduction]

[Excerpts] "I have heard that Greece has offered its territory to the International Olympic Committee [IOC] as a permanent site for the Olympic Games.

It would be interesting to know what opinions there are for and against this proposal." A. Rogov, a reader of ours from Moscow, had put this question to the newspaper. A similar request is contained in many letters sent to the editorial office.

We asked K.A. Andrianov, a well-known figure in the Soviet and international sports movement and member of the IOC since 1951, to answer readers'questions.

[Andrianov] I should say right off that there is no clear instruction in the Olympic statutes regarding the choice of venue for the next Olympic Games. However, a certain practice, a tradition perhaps, has come about. There is a viewpoint current in the IOC that it would be good to alternate each time not just the countries but the continents too, since the reception of the Olympics and the organization of the competitions themselves gives a powerful boost to the development of sport in the state in question.

[Andrianov] The "Greek' proposal remains in force and is kept onfile at the IOC. But personally I consider that there are no grounds for a positive outcome.

[Sinyavskiy] Would you please tell us how Seoul was chosen as the capital for the 24th Olympic Games in 1988?

[Andrianov] I remember that initially three cities applied to host the 1988 Olympic Games: Melbourne, Australia; Nagoya, Japan; and Seoul, South Korea. The Melbourne representatives soon withdrew their candidacy because of problems over funding. The Nagoya delegation submitted a deliberately untenable plan to the IOC. Thus, Seoul remained essentially unrivaled. After a while representatives of a number of countries, arguing that South Kores is ruled by a military dictatorship and that democratic freedoms and a calm, peaceful situation are absent there, launched a campaign to switch the 24th Olympics. However, they had missed the boat. Although statements could be heard at IOC sessions that the choice of Seoul would be a mistake, it was already impossible to change anything. In December 1984 an extraordinary IOC session at Lausanne finally confirmed that the 1988 Summer Games would be held in Seoul.

[Sinyavskiy] How successfully is the city preparing for the Olympics?

[Andrianov] The vast majority of sporting facilities in Seoul designed to recieve Olympic participants have, according to the organizers, already been prepared. The Asian Games will be held in those stadiums in 1986. I would add that Soviet archers and sportsmen from other kinds of sport have already participated in international competitions in South Korea.

The South Korean Government officially guarantees the complete safety of all games participants, including the delegations from socialist countries.

I would like to believe that the Olympic movement, which has acquired unprecedented dimensions and won the hearts and minds of people throughout the world, will continue to develop successfully and serve the noble goal of strengthening friendship and mutual understanding among the peoples.

SOVIETS OFFER CONDOLENCES ON SHUTTLE EXPLOSION

Gorbachev Telegram

LD291408 Moscow TASS in English 1342 GMT 29 Jan 86

[Text] Moscow, January 29 TASS -- "We partake of your grief at the tragic death of the crew of the space shuttle Challenger", says Mikhail Gorbachev's telegram to President Ronald Reagan of the United States.

Mikhail Gorbachev presented his condolences to the people of the United States and to the families of those who were killed in the accident.

Text of Gorbachev Condolences

PM291549 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 30 Jan 86 Morning Edition p 1

[Text] To His Excellency Ronald W. Reagan, President of the United States [headline]

Esteemed Mr President,

We share the feelings of grief at the tragic death of the crew of the Challenger spacecraft.

We express condolences to the people of the United States and the families of the deceased.

M. Gorbachev

Academy of Sciences Message

LD291939 Moscow TASS in English 1855 GMT 29 Jan 86

[Text] Moscow, January 29 TASS -- The Academy of Sciences of the USSR and the Intercosmos Council have expressed deep condolences over the tragic death of seven American citizens aboard the Challenger spaceship. Their names, says a telegram from Anatoliy Alexandrov, president of the USSR Academy of Sciences, and Vladimir Kotelnikov, chairman of the Intercosmos Council, will be inscribed in the history of space exploration. The scientists conveyed their condolences to the near and dear of the deceased.

Cosmonauts Send Condolences

LD292037 Moscow TASS in English 1909 GMT 29 Jan 86

[Text] Moscow, January 29 TASS -- In connection with the tragic death of the crew of the Challenger spaceship, Astronauts Francis Scobee, Michael Smith, Judith Resnik, Ellison Onizuka, Ronald McNair, Gregory Jarvis and Sharon Christa McAuliffe, the Soviet cosmonauts have expressed profound condolences to the American colleagues and the families of the deceased. On behalf of the Cosmonauts the message of condolences was signed by Vladimir Shatalov, Valeriy Ryumin, Aleksey Leonov, Valeriy Kubasov.

AFTERMATH OF CHALLENGER MISHAP EXAMINED

'Special Board' To Investigate

LD292326 Moscow TASS in English 1817 GMT 29 Jan 86

[Text] Washington, January 29 TASS -- The American press and television widely comment on details of the disaster that struck the space shuttle Challenger causing the death of its seven astronauts, including two women.

The disaster, described by the American press as the worst in the history of the American space programme, occurred in the 75th second of the flight when the spaceplane was about 15 kilometers above earth.

According to experts, the Challenger's external fuel tank, containing liquid oxygen and hydrogen, exploded as a result of sudden ignition. Debris of the craft fell into the Atlantic several kilometers from the launch site on Cape Canaveral, Florida.

Rescue operations were discontinued after it was established that all the astronauts had been killed.

Telemetry information transmitted from the spacecraft until the very movement [as received] of the explosion registered no malfunctioning. The scheduled flights of the shuttle fleet will be postponed until the causes of the disaster are ascertained. According to observers, the flights would be resumed not sooner than after several months.

The cost of the Challenger is estimated at 1.2 billion dollars. Three spaceplanes have been left on the NASA fleet.

A spokesman for the National Aeronautics and Space Agency announced at a press conference on Cape Canaveral the appointment of a special board to investigate the circumstances of the disaster. In his view, it will take several months of careful study and review of data to determine the cause of the explosion.

The explosion was so powerful that NASA has little hope of finding any fragments of the Challenger that could help determine the cause.

The spokesman refused to speculate on possible causes of the disaster.

Commenting on the accident, an American expert said in a programme of the CNN television network that NASA insufficiently studied the technical aspects of the flights of the reusable spacecraft. It was in a hurry to turn them into real commercial flights. 15 missions were scheduled for this year alone. The timeframe of repair works was compressed, while the snags that periodically cropped up at [as received] shuttle craft were proclaimed insignificant although no one investigated them and their possible consequences in depth. The Challenger was repeatedly beset with problems in the main propulsion units, the expert pointed out.

According to an NBC reportage, the Challenger pilot warned in one of his interviews with the television company about a possibility of such a tragedy.

Reporting on the first reaction from the administration, THE WASHINGTON POST newspaper writes that the disaster stunned the White House.

President Ronald Reagan addressed the American people over national television, describing the accident as a loss for the whole country. He announced a week of national mourning. At the same time, the head of the administration emphasized that the United States will continue its space programme despite the disaster.

'Confusion' in the White House

LD292343 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1800 GMT 29 Jan 86

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] American press and television widely comment on details of the disaster that struck the space shuttle Challenger, causing the death of its seven astronauts, including two women. The disaster, described by the American press as the worst in the history of the U.S. space program, occurred approximately in the 75th second of the flight when the space plane was about 15 kilometers above earth.

According to experts, the Challenger's external fuel tank, containing liquid oxygen and hydrogen, expoloded as a result of sudden ignition. Debris from the craft fell into the Atlantic several kilometers from the launch site on Cape Canaveral, Florida. Rescue operations are continuing.

Telemetry information transmitted from the spacecraft until the very moment of the explosion registered no malfunctioning. The scheduled flights of the shuttle fleet will be postponed until the causes of the disaster are ascertained. Three spaceplanes have been left on the NASA fleet.

A spokesman for NASA announced at a press conference at Cape Canaveral the appointment of a special board to investigate the circumstances of the disaster. In his view, it will take several months of careful study and comparison of data to determine the cause of the explosion. The spokesman refused to speculate on possible causes of the disaster.

The search operations, in which 8 ships and 10 aircraft and helicopters of the U.S. coastguard are taking part, encompasses an area of the Atlantic Ocean covering 12,000 square kilometers. So far a few heat resistant tiles, with which the hull of the spacecraft was covered, have been found.

Reporting on the Administration's first reaction, THE WASHINGTON POST writes that the disaster has caused confusion and numbness in the White House.

President Reagan made an address to the American people over national television, calling what had happened a loss, truly, for the whole country. He announced a week of national mourning. At the same time the head of the adminstration stressed that, despite the disaster, the United States will continue its space program.

[Video shows Challenger ready to be launched, the seven astronauts walking out of building, take-off of Challenger and its explosion, cutting to horrified faces of onlookers, cutting to rocket continuing its flight. Ship with array of aerials is shown sailing in the dark; some more shuttles in launch position are shown. A NASA leading official is shown making a statement about the explosion, with a repeat of the explosion clip]

COMMENTARY ON SPACE SHUTTLE CHALLENGER EXPLOSION

Teacher Invited for 'Publicity'

LD292158 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1900 GMT 29 Jan 86

[Washington correspondent Vladimir Dunayev commentary]

[Text] Americans have not experienced such grief since Kennedy died. Everyone has clearly been imagining himself in the astronauts' place during takeoff; everyone has been putting himself in the place of the parents and husband of teacher Christa McAuliffe, who, picked from among 11,000 applicants, was to have been the first teacher to conduct a lesson from space. The White House decided to postpone the President's speech to Congress and to replace it with a sorrowful address to the nation.

There are no reports about the causes of the sudden explosion of the reusable spaceship 1 minute and 15 seconds after takeoff, and no reports are expected in the near future. According to experts, it will scarcely be possible to retrieve from the surface of the ocean anything that could provide a clue to solving the mystery of the tragedy. Fragments of what once had been Challenger rained down and sank for 15-20 minutes. During that period it was dangerous for ships and people to venture there, and afterward hardly anything was left on the surface.

Experts are now asserting that it is foolish to risk the lives of people whose presence on the spaceship is not indispensable, and that the invitation to the teacher was associated with publicity aims and hopes for an increase in financial allocations.

Wayne (Beadle), a well-known authority on space affairs from DISCOVER magazine, said on television that the American space program had been under such pressure from military representatives and politicians, and had been rushed to such a degree that [word indistinct] and an acceleration of deadlines, and consequently errors and unjustified risks, became inevitable. Experts are now arguing and trying to get to the causes of the explosion, estimating how far it will set back the program of scientific and military missions, for which this space shuttle was essentially designed.

But I can see before me the grief-stricken faces of adults and children: Americans who had gathered to rejoice but found themselves staring tragedy in the face. They value the Soviet Union's condolences; they know that we, too, have lived through such things; they know that we share their sorrow. A film development technician -- Francis is his name -- asked me the following: What if we pursued the development of space together, what if we pooled our resources and capabilities? Perhaps we could then manage to avoid such terrible mishaps, isn't that so?

Computer Reliability Questioned

LD301022 Moscow in English to North America 0001 30 Jan 86

[Text] In the United States, the Soviet Union and many other countries people were devastated and grieved by the explosion of the space shuttle Challenger with seven astronauts on board.

The tragic death of the American crew, including two women, came as a shock. It underscored many things, one of them being the vulnerability of human beings on a mission of exploration. According to reports from Washington, President Reagan ordered to halt all manned flights until the cause of the Challenger's explosion is established. Experts have already expressed disbelief over why the shuttle's computers failed to detect and alert the flight commander of a malfunction.

This brings to the fore the disturbing question about how far we can go in our reliance on computers and other futuristic technology. Naturally space flights will continue. More people from other countries will join international programs of space exploration in the Soviet Union and the United States. Nothing can stop progress. But should we place our lives and destinies into the hands of machines in such matters as life and death?

Following Yuriy Gagarin who opened a new era of manned flights, cosmonauts here and astronauts in the United States climbed into those mammoth candles filled with fuel and packed with sophisticated instruments perfectly aware of the risks involved. But they did and will continue to do so motivated not by the urge to satisfy their ego or sense of adventure or because they are driven by challenge. These people risk their lives to help our common progress as living beings in the enormous void of empty space. Such a risk is justified. Other risks are not. Our security and progress cannot and should not depend on chips and software hurtled high up for purposes other than common benefit.

Explosion 'Warning' Against SDI

LD301057 Moscow TASS in English 1047 GMT 30 Jan 86

[Text] Washington January 30 TASS -- TASS correspondent Nikolay Turkatenko reports:

In the days when Americans are mourning the deaths of seven astronauts, crew members of the exploded spaceship shuttle Challenger, experts say that the Challenger's explosion is a serious warning to those who are planning to deploy arms systems in space.

The Strategic Defence Initiative of the Reagan administration provides for the deployment of space arms systems monitored and controlled by computers. Investigations recently confirmed by the Pentagon's special consultative commision show the impossibility of developing such a monitoring and control system that would guarantee against error and reacting to false signals.

Suppose, says Robert Bowman, president of the Research Institute for Space and Security Studies, that a spaceship exploded in orbit with arms systems already deployed in space. Who would be able to tell whether such an explosion was the result of faulty functioning of the ship's systems or it was hit by an anti-satellite weapon? Properly speaking, there would be no one to consider the matter because computers monitoring space arms systems would instantaneously react to the explosion. They would issue only one command, the command for these systems to be activated. Such is one of the highly probable chance occurrences that can trigger off a nuclear war.

The seven crew members of the Challenger spaceship have met their tragic deaths not only for the great cause of space exploration but also for preventing the deaths of billions of people because now mankind has become more deeply aware of the terrible danger which deployment of arms systems in space represents to our planet. Robert Bowman expressed the hope that the Challenger catastrophe would make the initiators of the "star wars" programme, too, realize this danger and the need for constructive talks with the Soviet Union on nuclear and space arms.

Some Hope SDI Not Affected

PM291819 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 30 Jan 86 First Edition

[Own correspondent V. Gan dispatch: "After the Tragedy: America Experiences the Loss of Challenger"]

[Text] Washington, 29 Jan -- The U.S. capital plunged into deep mourning virtually from the very moment that time stopped for the crew of the spacecraft Challenger at 1139 hours. U.S. state flags were flown at half-mast and the press conferences, rallies, and seminars which make up a usual Washington weekday were canceled as a token of national grief. On the President's instructions Vice President G. Bush quickly flew to Cape Canaveral, Florida, to gather information and present a report to the White House.

After consulting with his aides, President R. Reagan took the decision to postpone for a week the State of the Union message to the two chambers of the U.S. Congress scheduled for this evening. A White House spokesman reported that the head of the administration considered "the moment unsuitable" for delivering the traditional message, which is also by tradition couched in an optimistic vein.

Instead Reagan made a statement on the national televsion network in which he honored the memory of the Challenger's crew and stressed U.S. resolve to continue exploring the expanses of outer space.

Special reports transmitted by ABC television throughout the day noted that the Soviet Union was one of the first to express its condolences on the tragedy. Recalling Soviet-American cooperation in outer space in past years and the enormous program of their own research into near-earth space, an announcer noted that "despite the political problems and the disagreements which divide us, what has happened evokes the same feelings and emotions in everyone."

However, among the stream of expressions of grief which inundated the television screens and newspaper pages notes were clearly heard which, given the tragedy, cannot be described as other than monstrous. Literally in the first hours after the Challenger turned into a ball of fire before the eyes of millions of television viewers some legislators rushed to assure people that the catastrophe would not in any circumstances influence work on the very dangerous "star wars" program. And although you would think that the spectacle of people dying, as it were, in public would emphasize the acute need for mankind to pool its creative efforts in the difficult task of peacefully exploring outer space, there were figures in Washington who deemed it possible to champion its very rapid militarization. "Sources in the administration and congress," THE WASHINGTON POST observes in this regard, "have expressed the hope that the Pentagon's part of the program will not suffer seriously as a result of the explosion."

And that "part", as the press reports, is virtually the most significant part of the NASA program, of which the Pentagon, according to ABC, has become "one of the major clients." Using the shuttle, for example, the military department has begun practical research in the sphere of developing [sozdanize] space strike weapons.

SCIENTIST CALLS FOR SPACE COOPERATION

LD292318 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1728 GMT 29 Jan 86

[Text] Moscow, Jan (TASS) -- The present state of science and technology makes it possible to begin creating global information systems as one of the directions of the peaceful mastering of space, said Academician Vsevolod Avduyevskiy.

In a conversation with journalists he noted that there are no difficulties in principle which would require fundamental discoveries in this area and that the USSR has proposed that a start be made on international elaborations for such a project. "Unfortunately, this peace initiative, too, has remained unanswered," the scientist noted.

Speaking about the work of the Soviet orbiting stations, he said research into space materials science and biotechnology is constantly conducted on them and many encouraging results have been obtained. The production of certain preparations has already been put on to a commercial basis. "We can only regret that Soviet and U.S. research in these promising directions is proceeding behind closed doors. Because it would be possible, for example, to begin joint development of preparations for the production of fodder protein and high quality agricultural plans resistant to unfavorable environmental factors, Avduyevskiy said.

The scientist noted that science without an exchange of ideas has a brake on its progress. "It would be of interest to me to find out how the reliability of the Voyager vessel's systems was achieved, he said, but the Americans, too, would find it useful to learn about our experience in increasing the size of solar batteries, in carrying out restorative work on Salyut, and in maintaining the life functions of the organism during long flights."

"We Soviet scientists would like active cooperation with our U.S. colleagues," the academician stressed." The peaceful proposals of the Soviet leaders are aimed at this, too. If they are taken up, space promises mankind unheard-of riches."

U.S. SEEKS PRETEXT FOR ACTION AGAINST LIBYA

LD292133 Moscow TASS in English 1709 GMT 29 Jan 86

["The United States Seeking Pretext for Aggression" -- TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow, January 29 TASS -- Washington's anti-Libyan campaign is developing in keeping with a script which perilously resembles that which led to the Suez crisis three decades ago, Leonid Medvedko, Ph.D. (history), a member of the Presidium of Soviet Afro-Asian People's Solidarity Committee, writes in the latest issue of the MOSCOW NEWS weekly. At that time the need "to ensure the safety of shipping operations" following Egypt's move to nationalize the canal was mentioned as a pretext for the aggression. But if then Tel Aviv was assigned the role of the main performer, while Washington preferred to remain in the wings, acting as a prompter, at present Washington emerged from behind the scene and directed the spearhead of a collective armed intervention -- now in the making -- at the Libyan Jamahiriyah.

This time terrorist acts in Europe served as a pretext. The U.S. put the responsibility for them on Libya and the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Official representatives of the PLO accused Israeli and U.S. secret services of staging those acts of terror. And indeed, there are grounds for such accusations.

The Israeli intelligence service, Mossad, staged a series of assassinations and attempts on the lives of Palestinian leaders in many countries. Last November the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency drafted a secret plan to destabilize the situation in Libya by means of the liquidation of Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and other leaders of the Libyan Jamahiriyah.

If one looks closely at the events that followed the conclusion prompts itself that the blasts in the Vienna and Rome airports are purely artificial pretexts. This kind of banditry has long been used as a cover when Washington and Tel Aviv prepare and stage acts of state terrorism with a pronounced anti-Arab and anti-Communist tilt.

Wasn't it the CIA, as its former Cairo resident Miles Copeland recently confirmed, that prepared to assassinate Egyptian President Jamal 'Abd al-Nasir in 1956? Wasn't it the U.S. Administration which sanctioned a raid of paratroopers into Iran in an attempt to topple the Islamic regime and murder its leaders in Tehran? And wasn't it with Washington's blessing and assistance that the Israeli Air Force staged its bandit raids on Beirut, Baghdad and Tunis?

The U.S. Administration should give the matter some serious thought before deciding to attack Libya. Even many of Washington's allies in the North Atlantic alliance refuse to join in the anti-Libyan sanctions or to support the U.S.-Israeli adventure.

PENTAGON EMBELLISHING WEAPONS TEST RESULTS

LD300043 Moscow TASS in English 0020 GMT 30 Jan 86

["The Pentagon's Dangerous Actions" -- TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow January 29 TASS -- TASS news analyst Vladimir Matyash writes:

The UPI news agency reported that according to a statement of Anthony Battista, member of the House of Representatives of the U.S. Congress, the Pentagon has embellished the results of tests of various types of armaments, specifically Bradley armoured vehicles, Maverick anti-tank missiles and other arms systems so as to get an increase of the appropriations for the widening of armaments production. He said that on the strength of those tests, the Pentagon was able to get the Congress to finance military programmes, though there were serious protests and doubts about the reliability of many weapon systems. Thus, under strong pressure from the military department, the Congress has sanctioned the appropriation of 11,300 million dollars for the manufacture of 6,882 armoured carriers and 6,100 million dollars for anti-tank missiles.

Engaged in an unrestrained arms race and seeking to get more appropriations, the Pentagon does not stop at falsification. Indeed, facts show that in the pursuit of the illusion of military superiority, the Pentagon brasshats hold cheap the lives of American servicemen. Suffice it to say that 630 incidents with nuclear weapons or dummy warheads resulting from technical defects were registered in the U.S. Navy in the past 20 years. One of the incidents happened in 1965, when an A-4e bomber with weapons on board fell from the take off deck of an aircraft carrier in the western part of the Pacific. Another such incident happened in 1968 when a Scorpion submarine was lost in the Atlantic with its crew.

The information on the scopes of such incidents resulting from technical breakdowns are cited in report issued by an influential public organization, the American Friends Service Committee. Its authors who got hold of the Pentagon's documents which had been earlier classified note that the incidents with nuclear weapons are not limited to the United States Navy. As many as 125 cases of the leakage of fuel from 54 Titan missiles were registered between 1975 and 1979, according to the information of the U.S. Air Force. A B-52 strategic bomber with nuclear weapons on board was burning for three hours at the Grand Forks Base in North Dakota in September 1980.

The explosion of a Pershing-2 missile at the U.S. base in Waldheid, near Heilbronn (FRG) on January 11, 1985 is described by the U.S. official bodies as the gravest incident with such missiles. Four U.S. servicemen perished in the fire, seven others (16, according to other information) were injured. Nevertheless, the programme of the deployment of first strike U.S. missiles in Western Europe is implemented at full pace. This is the main militaristic programme now, so much so, that in praising Pershing-2 missile system as the "most reliable" of the existing systems, Washington leaders do not stop to think that such assertions might give rise to apprehensions about the "reliability" of other elements of the U.S. strategic arsenal. If this might happen with the "most reliable" system then what about others"

U.S. Defence Secretary Weinberger said once that the possibility of accidental war is infinitesimal. But they in Washington clearly refuse to realise that nuclear conflict has a sinister logic of its own. So the incident with Pershing-2 evoked serious concern in Western Europe. Hence Washington's attempts to play down the importance of what has happened, to distract the attention of peoples from the sword of Damocles looming over them.

SCIENTIST ALEKSANDROV'S DISAPPEARANCE PONDERED

PM292004 Moscow LITERATURNAYA GAZETA in Russian 22 Jan 86 p 9

[Unnamed correspondent New York dispatch under the rubric "Continuing the Theme": "So Where Is Vladimir Aleksandrov?"]

[Text] Harold (Degunesk), New York representative of the International Committee of the Red Cross -- an organization called upon to help people in trouble -- said sympathetically in reply to my questions:

"Unfortunately I have no news about the sad incident involving your compatriot Vladimir Aleksandrov..."

On 25 December our newspaper carried the article "Who has Vladimir Aleksandrov Been Impending". Subsequently the editorial office received many letters from readers concerned at the fate of the Soviet scientist, who disappeared without trace in Madrid almost 10 months ago. Before this, at an international conference of municipalities of cities which have declared themselves nuclear-free zones -- this conference was held in the city of Cordoba -- Aleksandrov had spoken about the terrible consequences of nuclear war threatening mankind, about the so-called "nuclear winter." A day later he disappeared, and to this day the Spanish authorities have been unable to explain his mysterious disappearance.

Meanwhile in the United States TIME magazine, exulting over the tragic incident involving Aleksandrov, put out a bit of scandal. "The 'nuclear winter' scenario" was devised by Moscow with a view to providing fresh arguments for the fighters in the United States and Europe against nuclear war and the U.S. arms buildup. This slanderous "explanation" also provides the answer to who Vladimir Aleksandrov was hampering.

But what has happened to him? I put this question to Dale (Rassakof) of THE WASHINGTON POST. In an article back in November she had mentioned the fleeting incident involving Aleksandrov.

I asked Mrs (Rassakof):

"Where did you get this information?"

"From the CIA," she admitted.

The conclusion which suggests itself is that the CIA was secretly pursuing Aleksandrov.

On 13 January another newspaper, THE WASHINGTON TIMES, commented insultingly on the efforts of Soviet representatives in the West to discover those to blame for Aleksandrov's disappearance. THE WASHINGTON TIMES is well known for its rabid anti-Sovietism, and its chief editor for long-standing ties with the local special services. Calling the newspaper editorial offices on the telephone, I expressed a wish to speak with people possessing information about Aleksandrov, to which Mr William (Gerts) replied. He immediately exclaimed:

"The CIA has no information on Aleksandrov's whereabouts."

But I hadn't even gotten round to asking him about the CIA! If the cap fits?

Evidently they have not been able even now to get him to capitulate. This is why he is being hidden from everybody. And we do not have the right to end the search we have begun.

BUDGET REQUEST CONTRADICTS 'GENEVA SPIRIT'

LD270053 Moscow TASS in English 2200 GMT 26 Jan 86

[Text] Washington January 26 TASS -- TASS correspondent Aleksandr Lyutiy reports:

The Reagan administration is not going to lower the rates of the implementation of the programme for the United States "rearming". Addressing in the White House representatives of the lobbyist groupings of big business, President Reagan said that the draft federal budget for the 1987 financial year being sent to the Congress these days, will ensure the increase of military expenditures. Though the U.S. military appropriations were brought to nearly 300 billion dollars in the current financial year, the White House intends to increase them by at least threeprecent, without taking into account the inflation, in the 1987 financial year.

The administration intends to preserve intact virtually all programmes of the build up of the military arsenals, emphasising the speeding up of the work in the framework of the "star wars" programme. In his speech the President tried to justify this dangerous course by traditional allegations about menace to the security of the United States and its allies from "foreign states". He repeated the allegations rehashed by Washington that the United States has to overcome the "lag" behind the USSR in arms build up. Contrary to facts and common sense, he was asserting that the lowering of the rates of the programme of the U.S. "rearmament" will undermine the chances for success of the talks on arms limitation with the Soviet Union.

Meanwhile, it is clear to any unbiased person that the road to the success of these talks is through curbing the arms race and lowering the level of military confrontation, and not through the stockpiling of the latest armaments, as this only complicates the bilateral dialogue and contradicts the "Geneva spirit."

CIA PLOT AGAINST NICARAGUA 'THWARTED'

LD251757 Moscow TASS in English 1711 GMT 25 Jan 86

[Text] Managua, January 25 TASS -- TASS correspondent Aleksandr Gorbunov reports:

The security services of Nicaragua have thwarted a criminal CIA plan to engineer a series of acts of terrorism and subversion in the capital and in other cities of the republic. Altogether 25 conspirators, including Guillermo Aguilera, the ringleader of the "Nicaraguan Internal Front" of Somocista counterrevolution, were arrested. An investigation uncovered caches in which the mercenary terrorists kept explosives, weapons and ammunition supplied by the U.S. spy agency.

Trying in vain to destabilize the Sandinista people's revolution, the United States has set out to escalate state-sponsored terrorism against Nicaragua, Andres Garcia, deputy chief of the Main State Security Board, has stated at a press conference here. Special groups of CIA mercenaries are trained in mass killings and acts of sabotage at the Somocistas' military bases in Honduras and subsequently infiltrated into Nicaragua. A number of terrorists who were plotting Operation Scorpio were arrested inthe middle of last year. After that conspiracy had failed, the CIA came up with a new plan, Scorpio-2.

The Somocista mercenaries infiltrated into Nicaragua, Garcia recounted, had orders to blow up power plants in Managua and Leon, and also food depots and one of the factories in the capital and to disrupt power supply and telephone communications. The participants in the conspiracy also planned acts of terrorism against the embassies of socialist countries in Managua, on public transport and in department stores.

The criminals failed to carry out in full the order from their American bosses thanks to the effective actions of security personnel and to the revolutionary vigilance of the entire Nicaraguan people. However, the mercenaries blew up a few silos of a high-voltage power transmission line and to engineer a blast during a religious procession in Rivas.

The arrested ringleaders of the "Internal Front" confessed that they had involved in their counterrevolutionary actions some reactionary politicians and clergymen, who had been instructed to carry out subversive activities among the population and to recruit mercenaries.

According to available information, the CIA is plotting new acts of terrorism on the Nicaraguan Pacific coast in the hope of provoking panic and confusion among the population and distracting a part of the forces of the Sandinista People's Army, who are routing the armed gangs of counterrevolutionaries in the northern regions of the republic, Garcia stressed.

COMMENTARY REJECTS 'SOVIET THREAT' CHARGE

OW300300 Moscow in Mandarin to China 0700 GMT 29 Jan 86

[Andreyev commentary]

[Text] Over the past few days, the media of the world has been particularly active in discussing prospects for preserving peace, and Soviet leader Comrade Gorbachev's statement -- which provides a constructive plan for eliminating nuclear weapons -- has served as a strong motivating force behind this discussion. Under such circumstances, the enemy of peace has resorted to its usual tactics of using the so-called Soviet threat -- or Soviet hegemony and the like -- to divert attention form the Soviet plan. In this connection, Andreyev, a Soviet expert on international relations, writes:

Everybody knows that hegemonism finds expression in attempts to rule and dominate other countries and their people. As proven by ample historical facts, it has been a conspicuous character of imperialist powers to exert every effort to establish their domination and hegemony. Lenin pointed out a long time ago that, to seize the territory of another country and place it under their control, the imperialist powers have resorted to gunboat policy, or force; and that if the use of overt force was ineffective, or overly risky, they would use other tactics -- such as bribing its leaders, or assassinating them, or setting up a gang of mercenary bandits, or using the nation's reactionary turncoats -- to destabilize the nation's political situation. We can see from all part of the world that hegemonists have been using these measures to establish their domination of other countries.

Generally speaking, the United States has been playing a main role in this area after the war. In an attempt to establish its hegemony, the United States has carried out bloody wars in Korea, Indochina, Guatemala and other Latin American countries in recent years; and to this end, Washington has sent troops to seize the small nation of Grenada in 1983, sent warships to waters near the coasts of Libya and Lebanon, and made all-out efforts to control the Philippines, Thailand and other Asian countries where it has deployed the so-called Rapid Deployment Forces. In short, by carrying out the most active and the most arbitrary military activities, this most powerful imperialist country wants to establish U.S. hegemony not only in a few countries but in the entire region as well, and its ultimate objective is to dominate the whole world. This imperialist nature has been known to everyone. As far as the imperialists are concerned, the main aspect of their policy is to use force to push their hegemonist policy.

All this, however, has nothing to do with the policies of the USSR, the first socialist country of the world. Regrettably, certain propaganda organs, and occasionally some politicians as well, have arbitarily labelled the USSR as displaying hegemonist intentions. Incidentally, this is very helpful for the ruling cliques of the United States and its allies, who have been trying hard to sling mud at the USSR'S peaceful policy and, for this matter, spreading rumors about Soviet hegemony.

Let us recall some historical facts; was it not the USSR who assisted and supported the Chinese and Korean people's struggles against Japanese militarists and then against the U.S. imperialists, who tried to submit the Chinese and Korean people to U.S. hegemonism? Was it not the USSR who helped the victorious China strengthen its military power to defend its revolutionary achievements against the invasion of the U.S.-Chiang Kai-Shek elements? Was it not because of the Soviet Union -- who firmly adhered to the policy of supporting the oppressed people's liberations struggle -- that the politically independent countries need not face the threat of losing their political independence again?

Let me add: As it is stated in the (?new) draft of the CPSU charter -- in fact, this is not the first time it has been stated -- the policy of the CPSU and the Soviet state toward the liberated countries is: The CPSU will continue to follow the line of expanding the Soviet Union's friendly ties with liberated countries, and profoundly sympathize with the aspirations of those peoples who have suffered repressive and humiliating colonial enslavement. The USSR builds its relations with these countries on the basis of respecting their independence and equality, and supports their opposition to the imperialists' new colonial policy and residual colonialism, and supports their struggle for peace and universal security. The USSR firmly supports developing sovereign states in Asia and other parts of the world, maintaining that they should be helped to achieve economic prosperity. These objectives can only be attained under the condition of having lasting peace, because under the present conditions, military conflicts -- and especially nuclear wars -- will only cause enormous losses of lives, destruction, and the annihilation of lives from the earth. Such being the case, the USSR and other socialist countries will join all progressive forces in carrying out an unremitting struggle for lasting and stable peace, and for the right of independence, freedom and existence for all countries, big or small.

Is there anything in this policy that is in common with the policy of coercion, intimidation and violence pushed by the imperialists powers? Obviously there is not, and there cannot possibly be any. Moreover, the USSR and its peaceful policy as well as its military might have served as the main obstacle obstructing the hegemonist policy the United States and other imperialist countries.

JINGJI RIBAO EDITOR, JOURNALISTS VISIT USSR

PM281139 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 28 Jan 86 Morning Edition p 5

[Unattributed report: "Guest of IZVESTIYA"]

[Text] An Gang, chief editor of JINGJI RIBAO, was in the Soviet Union from 12 hrough 27 January at the invitation of IZVESTIYA. The visitor from the PRC familiarized himself with the work of the IZVESTIYA editorial office and also the editorial offices of TRUD and EKONOMICHESKAYA GAZETA. He was received by L.N. Tolkunov, chairman of the USSR Sumpreme Soviet Soviet of the Union, and the leadership of the USSR Gosplan, the USSR State Committee for Televison and Radio Broadcasting, the USSR Academy of ciences Economics Institute, and the USSR Journalists Union, and met with activists of the Soviet Chinese Friendship Society headed by Academician S.L. Tikhvinskiy, chairman of the society's central board. As well as Moscow, An Gang and the Chinese journalists accompanying him visited Riga, Minsk, and Kiev.

MONGOLIA'S BATMONH RECEIVES MURAKHOVSKIY-LED DELEGATION

LD291551 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0030 GMT 29 Jan 86

[Text] Mongolian leader Jambyn Batmonh has received a Soviet Government delegation led by Murakhovskiy, first deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers. The delegation has gone to Ulaanbaatar to take part in a regular sitting of the Soviet-Mongolian intergovernmental commission on economic and scientific-technical cooperation. The conversation passed off in a warm and cordial atmosphere.

NAKASONE POLICY SPEECH TO DIET ASSESSED

OW290609 Moscow in Japanese to Japan 1200 GMT 28 Jan 86

[Tokyo correspondent Vykhykyalov report]

[Text] The 104th regular diet session reopened in Japan on 27 January and Prime Minister Nakasone delivered his policy speech at a plenary session of the House of Representatives.

First, Prime Minister Nakasone highly appraised the outcome of the USSR-U.S. summit talks between Gorbachev, general secretary of CPSU Central Committee, and President Reagan of the United States in Geneva last November. While stressing that the summit talks have opened up new dialogue for world peace and disarmament, Prime Minister Nakasone stated Japan's intention of calling on the two countries to continue this fruitful dialogue, as well as supporting U.S. efforts, while maintaining solidarity among the free and democratic countries.

As is known to all, the U.S. position on disarmament is characterized by its persistent rejection of including in the agenda of the negotiations the development and deployment of offensive space weapons. The development of such weapons, while incapable of stopping the arms race on earth, will expand it into outer space. In this connection, Japan's support for this U.S. position will be no means promote the fruitful continuation of the USSR-U.S. dialogue.

Prime Minister Nakasone concentrated a large portion of his policy speech on Japan-U.S. relations. Needless to say, this indicates that the overall atmosphere for such relations has become very favorable. The recent official visit to Japan by Shevardnadze, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and concurrently foreign minister of the USSR, has served as a great impetus in the development of bilateral relations. In appraising Shevardnadze's visit, the prime minister stressed that it was highly significant in further promoting Japan-USSR relations, as an agreement was reached on strengthening political dialogue between the two countries, including cross visits by General Secretary Gorbachev and the prime minister himself. On the other hand, the establishment of stable relations based on true mutual understanding has once again been tied up with the so-called territorial issue in this speech.

In this connection, it can be concluded that instead of resolving the truly urgent issue of strengthening the goodneighborly relations between the two countries, Tokyo seems, at least at the present stage, to put priority to bringing up an old issue concerning a review of the situation established since the end of World War II, an issue which is unacceptable to the Soviet people.

SOVIET - JAPANESE TU COMMISSION ISSUES PROTOCOL

LD292033 Moscow TASS in English 1552 GMT 29 Jan 86

[Text] Moscow, January 29 Tass -- The trade unions of the USSR and Japan are stepping up in 1986 joint actions for prevention of a nuclear war, for an end to the arms race, for full prohibition and elimination of nuclear weapons. This is said in a protocol of the meeting of the standing Soviet-Japanese trade union commission which had ended in Moscow. In the protocol which has been distributed today the sides noted the striving to "actively participate in the development of really goodneighbourly relations between the two countries which are of great significance for the cause of peace and security in Asia and the whole world".

Representatives of the All-Union Central Council of the Trade Unions of the USSR, the General Council of Trade Unions of Japan (SOHYO) and the Federation of Independent Trade Unions (Churitsu Roren), who participated in the meeting, highly appraises the January 15 proposals which were made by General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee Mikhail Gorbachev and which are aimed at delivering the world from the nuclear danger and stressed the need of undelayed materialization of the proposals.

"Our people ardently support the Soviet initiatives, since they know by their own experience what irreparable consequences a nuclear castrophe might lead to", said Yeichi Yamada, head of the SOHYO International Department.

"Proposing stage-by-stage reduction of nuclear arsenals, the Soviet Union, if one may say so, launched a 'three-stage peace rocket' to fully eliminate weapons of mass destruction, and the new Soviet proposals met support by the peoples of the planet", said Zunnosuke Yamaguchi, deputy general secretary of Churitsu Roren.

"The people in Japan recieved with satisfaction the extension of the Soviet unilateral moratorium on nuclear explosions. Along with other constructive actions, this is great support ot the peace champions all over the world who demand that the U.S. Administration should take reply steps towards ending the arms race."

The participants in the Soviet-Japanese trade union meeting in Moscow noted that prevention of militarization of outer space was of decisive significance for attainment agreements on a radical reduction of nuclear armaments. They firmly declared against the so-called "Strategic Defence Initiative".

KUZNETSOV, DELEGATION RETURNS TO MOSCOW 29 JAN

LD292034 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1800 GMT 29 Jan 86

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] A delegation of the USSR Supreme Soviet, with Comrade Kuznetsov at its head returned to Moscow from Delhi today. It was in India on an official friendly visit at the invitation of the republic's parliament. At the airport the delegation was met by Comrade Demichev and other comrades. Among the meeting party was Sayid Nurui Hasan, the Indian ambassador to the Soviet Union.

ARKHIPOV MEETS INDIAN INDUSTRY MINISTRY OFFICIAL

PM281115 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 23 Jan 86 Second Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Conversation Held"]

[Text] In 22 January I.V. Arkhipov, first deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, received S. Varadana, secertary of the Indian Ministry of Industry, who is in the Soviet Union in connection with the holding of a session of the Soviet-Indian working party on production sharing and machine building.

A conversation was held on questions of further developing production sharing in the output of machine building and other industrial sectors between Soviet and Indian organizations and firms.

IZVESTIYA REPORTS BABRAK KARMAL PRESS CONFERENCE

PM281856 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 28 Jan 86 Morning Edition p 5

[Own correspondent G. Ustinov report: "Republic's Deeds and Plans; Babrak Karmal Press Conference"]

[Text] Kabul -- During the past week a large group of foreign journalists from many world countries has been in Afghanistan. Representatives of major press agencies, radio and television companies, and newspapers and magazines have had the opportunty to become cleosely acquainted with all aspects of the country's life today and the changes taking place in it.

They have visited both Kabul and the provinces and have met with workers, peasants, Afghan Army servicemen, tribal leaders and elders, traders, representatives of the clergy, and scientific and cultural workers. They have been addressed by Keshtmand, chairman of the DRA Council of Ministers; (Atef), chairman of the National Fatherland Front Central Council; Dost, minister of foreign affairs; and other leaders of the republic.

On 26 January Babrak Karmal, chairman of the DRA Revolutionary Council and general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, held a press conference. The head of the Afghan state and the PDPA told journalists about the republic's deeds and plans and its problems caused by the undeclared war, and replied to questions asked.

Great attention was paid at the press conference to the question of expanding the social base of the Afghan revolution. In accordance with the decisions adopted at the 9 November 1985 extraordinary session of the Revolutionary Council, a process is under way in the country of broader involvement of all social groups and sections of the population in revolutionary building and struggle. In most regions of the country elections to organs of local lower have been held. Tribal leaders, representatives of business circles, and clergy have been introduced to the republic's Revolutionary Council, the National Fatherland Front, the DRA Government, and other state and public organizations.

B. Karmal told journalists of the results of the Afghan people's creative work since the revolution. In the past 7 and 1/2 years the country has secured considerable successes. The party and government have clear and precise programs of revolutionary building. Public and mass organizations such as trade unions, the Union of Peasant Cooperatives, the Democratic Organization of Afghan Youth, the Democratic Organization of Afghan Women, creative unions of artists, writers, and journalists, the Higher Council of Ulemas, and the Permanent Consultative Council of Tribal Jirgas have been created and are in active operation. Major sociodemocratic transformations of an economic nature, including land and water reform, are being implemented. A campaign to eliminate illiteracy is being actively waged.

These achievements could have been considerably greater if it were not for overt and flagrant armed interference in Afghanistan's internal affairs. International imperialism headed by the United States will not accept the actual fact of the accomplishment of the April Revolution and is trying to deprive the Afghan people of the right to follow the path of social progress and democracy. Around the Afghan borders, chiefly in Pakistan and Iran, 120 training camps have been set up to turn the counterrevolutionaries into professional murderers and saboteurs. Gangs of mercenaries of world reaction make incursions onto Afghan territory, deal with the peaceful inhabitants -- including children, women and old people, and destroy mosques, hospitals, libraries, roads, bridges, and power lines.

In order to defend the country's state sovereignty, territorial integrity, and national independence from outside interference, B. Karmal said, the DRA Government was forced to turn to the Soviet Union for help on the basis of the norms of international law and the Afghan-Soviet Treaty of Friendship, Good-Neighborliness, and Cooperation. The presence of the limited contingent of Soviet forces in Afghanistan, he stressed, is temporary in nature. These forces will be withdrawn from the country when armed interference has completely stopped and its nonresumption is reliably guaranteed.

Speaking of a political settlement to the Afghan peoblem, B. Karmal noted certain progress in the indirect talks between Afghanistan and Pakistan, being held under UN auspices. At the same time he said that the other side has still not displayed genuine political will for a complete accord on all the problems under discussion. The United States, which is striving to extend its global imperialist policy to the region, bears considerable blame for this.

The journalists inquired about the events in the Pushtun tribal zone on Pakistani territory. Touching on this question B. Karmal stated that the Afghan people, from time immemorial connected with these tribes by their common traditional cultural, economic, and historical bonds, have always given them support.

Under the influence of the revolutionary tribes in Afghanistan, the Pushtuns living on the other side of the border activated a movement for their rights, and most importantly, started to actively condemn the fact that gangs of dushmans were being trained for counterrevolutionary activity on their land, and that bases and arms dumps for the mercenaries were to be found on their territory. All this aroused the hysterical malice of the Islamabad militarist regime, which hurled armed soldiers at the tribes of Afridis and Shinwaris. Afghans resolutely condemn these punitive acts and voice their solidarity with their Pushtun brothers.

Replying to a question as to his attitude to the Soviet Union's peace initiatives, B. Karmal voiced full support for the statement by M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, which expounds a specific and extensive plan of purposeful actions to eliminate the most serious threat hanging over mankind today -- the danger of nuclear war. This historic document, he stressed, enshrined an idea of tremendous moral value -- to enter the 21st century without nuclear weapons. People must not miss this chance.

Replies were given at the press conference to other questions too, which were of interest to foreign journalists. On its conclusion the guests warmly thanked B. Karmal for the frank and substantive discussion which had been held.

AFGHAN DEFENSE MINISTER HAILS GORBACHEV PROPOSAL

PM281144 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 28 Jan 86 First Edition p 3

[Interview with Lieutenant General Nazar Muhammed, candidate member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and DRA Defense minister by own correspondent Major A. Oliyniki "Comprehensive peace program" -- date, and place not given; first two paragraphs are editorial introduction]

[Text] The range of new initiatives of historic importance put forward in the statement by M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, is ardently approved and widely supported among the most varied strata of the Afghan people. Lively commentaries on the initiatives are being voiced by the mass media, politicians, and public and religious figures.

Major A. Oliynik, KRASNAYA ZVEZDA's permanent correspondent in Afghanistan, asked Lieutenant General Nazar Muhammad, candidate member of the PDPA Central Committe Politburo and DRA defense minister, to talk about how M.S. Gorbachev's statement has been received by Afghan Army personnel.

Afghan servicemen, like Afghanistan's entire revolutionary people, wholeheartedly support the Soviet peace initiatives, Lt Gen Nazar Muhammad said. They are evidence of the consistent peace-loving policy of the CPSU and the Soviet Government and their readiness to do everything to reaffirm in practical deeds the accords reached at the Soviet-U.S. summit in Geneva.

Beating swords into plowshares is a longstanding dream of mankind. And mankind should enter the new millennium without fearing for the lives of future generations or for the very existence of civilization. We Afghans are well aware what war is. This is now the 7th year that an undeclared war unleashed by the counterrevolution, with the broad support of the United States and Pakistan, has been waged against our country. The blood of the peaceful population is being spilled and hundreds of schools, hospitals, and mosques have been destroyed. That is why in our country and army we greeted with profound understanding the statement by M.S. Gorbachev, which accords with the most cherished aspirations of millions of Afghans.

It is not only a question of an entirely feasible comprehensive peace program. The fact that the program is aimed at resolving such vital problems as economic backwardness and the hunger and epidemics afflicting many peoples, including the population of Asia, is also of immense importance. The Soviet Union's initiatives entail relieving mankind of the burden of military spending and the arms race.

The new and wide-ranging peace program of the Land of the Soviets is unanimously approved by all categories of DRA Armed Forces servicemen. This is borne out by the atmosphere at the rallies and other mass political events being held at our units and formations and often directly during the lulls between battles. The text of the statement published in the newspaper HAQIQAT-E SARBAZ has been swiftly brought to the attention of all servicemen at political briefings. Our comrades from the limited contingent of Soviet troops in Afghanistan are a great help in the work to explain the major foreign policy actions of the CPSU and the Soviet State.

The Afghan people and their servicemen, Lt Gen Nazar Muhammad said in conclusion, warmly welcome the Soviet peace initiatives and for their part are prepared to make their contribution to ensuring peace and security in Asia and worldwide. Nuclear weapons must be removed from our planet forever!

DRA ENVOY WRITES IN SUPPORT OF ARMS PROPOSAL

LD241327 Moscow TASS in English 0928 GMT 24 Jan 86

[Text] Moscow, January 24 TASS -- The newspaper SOTSIALISTICHESKAYA INDUSTRIYA carries an article headlined "An Inspiring Document" by Habib Mangal, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan to the USSR, commenting on the statement by Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee on disarmament issues.

The whole content of that history-making document, Habib Mangal points out, is fresh proof that the Soviet Union is prepared to implement practically the programme for the elimination of nuclear weapons. It is with deep excitement that the Afghan people received the provisions of that most important document of our times, the main of which is the programme for the total elimination of nuclear weapons world-wide, which is concrete and designed for a definite period of time.

In Kabul, Jalalabad, Herat, in all the big and small cities, far-away villages in the mountains, the author points out, thousands of Afghans are familiarising themselves with the statement by the general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, getting the grasp of each of his words. This is understandable. Since the point at issue is that mankind should meet the year of 2000 under peaceful skies and outer space, that it should not know the fear of nuclear, chemical, any other type of destruction. All this is highly consonant with the sentiments of the people of Afghanistan, which is upholding its freedom and independence in the struggle against the open imperialist aggression. Meanwhile we see that they in the USA are not only continuing the perfection of nuclear weapons, but also wish to spread it into outer space.

At the Geneva summit meeting, the DRA ambassador continues, President Reagan wished to put regional conflicts to the foreground. Thus, the author points out, the USA wishes to steer aside from the main thing -- general and complete disarmament. But who, the article enquires, is responsible for these "regional conflicts"? In our view, the author continues, "regional conflicts" are whipped up by Washington so that it will be easier to fight against the national liberation movement of peoples, to force foreign will on sovereign states.

As proof one can cite examples of how U.S. imperialism is meddling in the home affairs of Afghanistan and Nicaragua, setting Israel against the freedom-loving, progressive Arab states and the courageous Arab people of Palestine, supports the fascist Pretoria regime in its armed attacks against Angola, its racist terror against the black majority of the Republic of South Africa, instigates Thailand against People's Kampuchea. The people of Afghanistan, the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan and the DRA Government ardently and resolutely support the creative, constructive and realistic programme for ridding mankind of fear of a nuclear catastrophe, scrapping all brutal mass destruction weapons, which is contained in the statement by Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee.

SOLDIER DECORATED FOR DRA EXPLOITS PROFILED

PM231532 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 22 Jan 86 First Edition p 6

[V. Izgarshev report: "The Fifth Star. We Serve the Soviet Union"]

[Excerpts] In Karaphshi, a large village in the Kiev area, there have been four heroes: team leader N. Krivosheya, tractor driver A. Sitnik, party worker V. Tonkoshkur, and enterprise director V. Yarmola. All four are Heroes of Socialist Labor. In the golden constellation a fifth star has begun to burn, crowning the feat of arms of a soldier: Master Sergeant Viktor Kapshuk has been awarded the title Hero of the Soviet Union.

We had a tete-a-tete, as they say, with Viktor Kapshuk in Moscow. Tomorrow he, a simple soldier, would be given the highest awards of the motherland -- the Order of Lenin and the "Gold Star" of Hero of the Soviet Union. A peasant lad from a Ukrainian village, 20 years of age, he does not yet seem to have realized the full significance of the fact that the people have conferred on him the greatest honors, the highest state distinction.

"You know," he said, "Vasya Khomenko accomplished a real feat before my very eyes. When we were attacked by dushmans, Vasya, without stopping to think, rushed to help the commander. He is such a brave fighter."

Of himself Kapshuk said little. He felt there was nothing to tell. He had served like everyone else. His comrades were excellent. The commanders were eagles! He had joined the party on the eve of the October celebration last year and had received candidate membership. Otherwise there seemed to be nothing out of the ordinary. Afghanistan is Afghanistan. There, of course, anything can happen. The dushmans attack, as they say, behind your back. And you have to be ready for this. He had been taught to be prepared, he had grasped this. And action? Well, he acted according to the situation, as he had been taught.

...The enemy attacked unexpectedly. As senior man in the group, Viktor Kapshuk immediately organized the bandits' rebuff. Senior Lieutenant Aleynikov, who was with his group, was wounded. He fell at fifty paces, and the bandits immediately rushed toward the officer to take him alive.

One of the fighters covered Kapshuk with gunfire and, in two leaps, he was at the wounded officer's side. He lifted him up and, shooting to defend himself, returned to his side.

There were six of us, the gang was many times larger than our group. Viktor calmly and clearly gave orders to his subordinates and organized all-around defense.

...Six times the bandits rushed into the attack, and all six times they were forced back, incurring losses. Senior Sergeant Kapshuk (he received the rank of master sergeant later), although stunned by the explosion of a bandit grenade and shell-shocked, continued to lead the battle. He also won it. It was all over with the bandits before his men approached. This is another episode from his service in Afghanistan. And how many others there were!

In his submission for the title of hero, the commander, as usual in military reports, briefly, almost in telegraph form, described Viktor Kapshuk's feat. The combat character reference in this document contains very cautious words, but words that are well understood by military men: "He shows presence of mind, determination, personal courage and bravery. He directs operations by his combat group confidently and competently. In making decisions he is bold and cautious. He enjoys the great trust of his subordinates and is an example to them..." A worthy character reference.

I told a good acquaintance and fine officer about my recent visit to Afghanistan, stressing the idea that there, in a difficult situation, our young people mature unusually quickly and demonstrate exceptional selflessness, self-possession, and all the high combat, moral, and political qualities characteristic of Soviet soldiers.

"There is nothing surprising in this," my companion observed. "Any soldier, any commander is trained to act like this in exceptional circumstances. All service by our soldiers confirms this simple truth. If another commander should have happened to have been in Kapshuk's place, I am sure he would have acted the same."

This is the evaluation of Major Vasiliy Vasilyevich Pimenov, Hero of the Soviet Union, an officer who has distinguished himself in Afghanistan. So it is. With us anyone can become a hero. Armed service itself forms able, brave, staunch fighters. The entire structure of our life cultivates courageous defenders of the fatherland, patriots, and internationalists. "When the country orders you to be a hero..." The eternal lines of an eternal song....

TV SHOWS WEAPONS CAPTURED IN AFGHANISTAN

LD300042 Moscow Television Service in Russian 2008 GMT 29 Jan 86

[From "The World Today" program presented by Eduard Mnatsakanov]

[Text] Afghanistan: Look at this abundance and variety of weapons, almost all of U.S., West German, and Pakistani manufacture. [video shows display of assorted rifles, mortars, pistols, and sub-machine guns, labeled to show country of origin]

All this deadly weaponry was brought into Afghanistan via neighboring Pakistan, which has long since been converted into a U.S.military base and the main supply center for the Afghan dushmans. But the interesting thing is this: it has been reported in just the past few days that Pakistan has been lashed by a wave of popular demonstrations against the presence of Afghan counterrevolutionary bands in the country. Demonstrations many thousands strong have been held in Peshawar, Karachi, and other cities, and the participants in them resolutely demanded that the Pakistani authorities finally destroy the training camps for dushmans and end the shameful undeclared war against the neighboring country.

Commenting on all these reports, the London GUARDIAN remarks sarcastically: No illusions remain about the policy of the Pakistani authorities. The only question is To To what degree, and at what price, has Ziaul Haq already sold his country to the United States?

U.S. CONGRESSMEN 'PRESSURING' NEW ZEALAND

LD241839 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1400 GMT 24 Jan 86

[Sergey Pravdin commentary]

[Text] REUTER reports that a group of U.S. Congressmen who have just returned from a visit to Wellington and Canberra have spoken in favor of suspending New Zealand's membership of the ANZUS military bloc, of which the United States and Australia are also members. Here is a Mayak commentary. Sergey Pravdin as at the microphone:

This group, comprising 11 members of Congress, was sent by the Washington administration to Wellington with the clear aim of exerting pressure upon New Zealand's government, in connection with its endorsement of the so-called antinuclear law. This law is designed to consolidate in legal form the well-known decision of the New Zealand Government banning port calls by vessels powered by nuclear propulsion units or carrying nuclear weapons. This ban formally applies to any vessel, regardless of the flag it flies. In practice, however, it affects the interests and imperial ambitions of only one country, the United States, since the United States was the initiator in the foundation of the ANZUS bloc, and only U.S. nuclear ships have visited New Zealand ports.

This decision, adopted by the labor Government of New Zealand as far back as last year, in accordance with preelection promises, has elicited Washington's extreme displeasure High-ranking representatives of the administration, including Shultz, the secretary of State, and Weinberger, the defense secretary, and the master of the White House himself have uttered open threats on several occasions against their junior partner. However, the New Zealand Government has not changed its decision banning visits by nuclear vessels to the country's ports. On the contrary, with other countries of the region it has declared itself in favor of the establishment of a nuclear-free zone in the South Pacific. This was seen in Washington as open rebellion, and so a group of influential congressmen was despatched to Wellington with the task of making abundantly clear to New Zealand the dangers of its apostasy.

But this time too, the New Zealand Government did not give in to pressure. Now it is being menaced with expulsion from ANZUS. According to Prime Minister Lange, the overwhelming majority of the New Zealand population considers that the so-called U.S. nuclear umbrella can only bring their country further danger. There can be no question of our changing our antinuclear law, he stressed.

U.S.-THAI MILITARY EXERCISES ASSAILED

PM281836 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 28 Jan 86 First Edition p 3

[A. Golts commentary: "Hatching a Provocation"]

[Text] This year the latest U.S.-Thai "Cobra Gold" military maneuvers will be held in direct proximity to the Cambodian border. This was stated by Admiral N. Sirithon, commander of the Thai Navy. What political aims are the organizers of this militarist action pursuing?

It is no secret that the United States is striving to use Thailand in its military plans in Southeast Asia. Washington would like to draw the states located there comprising the ASEAN regional political and economic grouping into the orbit of its strategy.

Currently the stakes are being placed on the militarization of Thailand. The United States delivers major arms shipments to this country. It is even intended to sell it nuclear-capable F-16 fighter-bombers. At the same time Washington is continuing its attempts to regain the bases which it once had on Thai territory. The talks between Pentagon representatives and Thai military leaders on the creation of strategic stockpiles of arms and munitions on the country's territory to back up U.S. troop operations in Southeast Asia can be seen as one of the first steps along this road. According to the Japanese newspaper SANKEI SHIMBUN an agreement on this score may be signed in April.

But the peoples of the ASEAN countries are resolutely against such projects. And the Pentagon very much needs an excuse for stepping up its military presence in the region. That is why the United States is exploiting the tension on the Thai-Cambodian border in every possible way for its own ends. It is well known that this tension is provoked by Pol Pot gangs which are covertly and overtly nurtured by the United States. And so, in order to exacerbate tension still more and raise the morale of the tattered ranks of Khmer reaction, the U.S. military leadership concocted a militarist show near the borders of people's Cambodia.

NHAN DAN, the organ of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee, described the decision to hold these maneuvers as an extremely dangerous step. Using these military games, the newspaper stressed, Washington is trying to pressure Cambodia and the Indochinese countries and is threatening the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the PRK and the peaceful process of national rebirth. These hostile actions are the main cause of tension in the region.

The planet's peace-loving public wholly support the Indochinese states' demand to prevent the military provocation that is in preparation. After all, saber-rattling near the PRK's borders only serves the United States' imperialist interests and runs counter to the aspirations of all the peoples of Southeast Asia.

SRV'S VO NGUYEN GIAP HAILS SOVIET ARMS PROPOSALS

LD271319 Moscow TASS in English 1207 GMT 27 Jan 86

[Text] Hanoi January 27 TASS -- Vo Nguyen Giap, a member of the Central Committee of the Vietnamese Communist Party, vice president of the Council of Ministers of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam (SRV) and prominent Vietnamese military leader, has described the proposals for the complete elimination of nuclear and chemical weapons on the globe, advanced by the General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee Mikhail Gorbachev, as a "great document of peace".

In conditions when preserving peace and life on earth is a task of highest priority to mankind today, the statement by the Soviet leader demonstrates the U.S.S.R.'s unfaltering striving and readiness to start translating into life the peoples' aspirations, Vo Nguyen Giap told TASS correspondent Mikhail Kalmykov. The concrete stages in nuclear disarmament and the terms set for this process, formulated in the comprehensive programme, are realistic and open up good prospects for progress in the cause of removing the threat of nuclear conflicts, the Vietnamese leader said.

The move to extend the Soviet moratorium on any nuclear blasts is evidence of the U.S.S.R.'s political will and high responsibility for the destiny of peace. Washington's words, however, have failed as yet to match its deeds, the "Strategic Defence Initiative" programme, touted by the U.S. Administration, constitutes in fact a dangerous offensive weapon rather than a shield, and is designed to extend the arms race into outer space. The peoples across the world demand that the United States follow the example of the U.S.S.R. and ultimately take a constructive stand on issues of achieving disarmament and preventing militarization of space.

The new proposals by Mikhail Gorbachev won the broadest and most ardent approval in Vietnam, Vo Nguyen Giap emphasized.

TASS CITES SRV LEADER ON USSR PEACE DOCUMENT

LD282153 Moscow TASS in English 1231 GMT 28 Jan 86

[Text] Hanoi January 28 TASS -- "The programme of totally liquidating nuclear arms in the whole world, set forth in the statement by the General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee Mikhail Gorbachev is a document of historic importance," a TASS correspondent was told by Van Tien Dung, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam, minister of defence of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. "Its implementation opens before mankind prospects of liquidating the danger of nuclear conflagration, the danger to life on the planet that overhangs the world."

"The road into the third millenium might become for mankind either a peaceful and happy one, or a road blocked by mounting piles of lethal nuclear arms threatening to destroy all life on earth," Van Tien Dung said further.

"The Soviet Union," he stressed, "again has firmly and resolutely stated its adherence to the former road, its striving to rid mankind of the fear of annihilation. It is now up to the United States to make its choice."

SOKOLOV GREETS LAO DEFENSE MINISTER SIPHANDON

PM231327 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 19 Jan 86 First Edition p 1

[Text] To Comrade Army General Khamtai Siphandon, Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR] national defense minister

Esteemed Comrade Minister!

On behalf of the USSR Armed Forces and my own personal behalf I cordially congratulate you and all Lao servicemen on the 37th anniversary of the Lao People's Army [LPA].

Soviet servicemen, like all Soviet people, will continue to do everything to ensure that the fraternal friendship and all-around cooperation between the USSR and LPDR armed forces, based on the firm foundation of Marxism-Leninism and socialist internationalism, develop and strengthen in the interests of socialism, peace, and international security.

I wish the LPA personnel new achievements in the further consolidation of their motherland's defense capability and in building socialism on Lao soil.

With communist greetings,

Marshal of the Soviet Union S. Sokolov, USSR defense minister

TOLKUNOV DESCRIBES RECENT VISIT TO FRANCE

PM291107 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 28 Jan 86 Morning Edition p 4

[Interview with L.N. Tolkunov, chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet of the Union, by correspondent Yu. Kovalenko: "Dialogue for the Sake of the Future: -- first paragraph is editorial introduction]

[Text] Paris -- From 21 through 27 January a USSR parliamentary delegation led by L.N. Tolkunov, chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet of the Union, was in France at the invitation of the Senate's France-Soviet Friendship Group. IZVESTIYA correspondent Yu. Kovalenko met the head of the Soviet delegation and asked him to describe the results of the visit.

First and foremost I would like to note that such meetings between parliamentarians from the Soviet Union and France have long been traditional and an integral part of political dialogue between the two countries. They make it possible to understand each other and to help strengthen friendship and trust between the two countries' peoples. We had conversations with L. Mermaz, president of the National Assembly, A. Poher, president of the Senate, R. Dumas, minister of external relations, and prominent state and public figures and parliamentarians belonging to different political parties. These meetings reaffirmed the mutual desire to develop existing contacts and to continue and deepen what has become a regular exchange of opinions on key problems of the day. Our meetings focused attention on the new Soviet peace program put forward by M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, which envisages the complete liquidation of nuclear weapons on our planet by the end of the 20th century. Our interlocutors highly appraised the Soviet proposals and stressed that their implementation would open up a new stage in the history of mankind and would rid the earth of the threat of nuclear catastrophe. Broad sections of the French public welcome the Soviet peace initiatives and believe that the USSR and France could do much by their joint efforts to improve the international climate and return to a policy of detente.

Despite the existing differences of views, the exchange of opinions held revealed a proximity or coincidence of viewpoints on many questions, primarily on the problems of preventing the launching of strike means into space, and a desire to do everything to curb the arms race and develop mutually advantageous bilateral ties.

During our conversations great attention was paid to Soviet-French relations. It was noted that our two countries have played and are continuing to play an important role in preserving and consolidating peace in Europe and throughout the world, were allies in the joint struggle against fascism during World War II, and were at the origins of detente. During the meetings with us, the French parliamentarians, political figures, and public representatives particularly stressed the significance of M.S. Gorbachev's visit to France, which marked the start of an important stage in relations betwen the two countries and gave powerful impetus to the development of bilateral ties in all directions. People in Paris highly appraised the fact that M.S. Gorbachev paid his first visit, as general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, to France, where -- addressing parliamentarians -- he put forward the large-scale foreign policy initiatives which were developed during the Soviet-American summit meeting in Geneva. Many well-known French figures repeatedly stated in conversations with us that France intends to advance along the path of active cooperation with the Soviet Union, embracing all spheres, which was confirmed in particular by the results of the recent Moscow session of the permanently operating Mixed Soviet-French Commission on Scientific, Technical, and Economic Coopertion (the "Grand Commission").

For our part we stated that Soviet parliamentarians, as indeed the entire Soviet people and our country's leaders, advocate the utmost development and strengthening of Soviet-French cooperation and that political dialogue be a factor in strengthening European security and stabilizing international relations.

While in France, we witnessed great interest in the Soviet Union's life, the changes taking place in our country, the plans for economic and social development, and the upcoming 27th CPSU Congress. Everywhere -- and we visited Avignon and a number of other cities as well as Paris -- the Soviet delegation was given an exceptionally warm and cordial welcome.

PRAVDA REPORTS KAMPELMAN TALKS WITH FRG LEADERSHIP

PM291750 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 29 Jan 86 First Edition p 5

[Own correspondent Yu. Yakhontov dispatch: "After Talks on the Rhine"]

[Text] Bonn, 28 Jan -- Following the recent talks which Federal Chancellor H. Kohl, Foreign Minister H.-D. Genscher, Social Democratic Party [SPD] Chairman W. Brandt, Deputy Chairman of the Christian Democratic Union/Christian Social Union parliamentary faction in the Bundestag V. Ruehe, and other officials had with M. Kampelman, head of the U.S. delegation at the Geneva talks, satisfaction has, on the whole, been expressed in Bonn at the constructive nature of the new Soviet proposals.

As the WESTFAELISCHE RUNDSCHAU writes, agreement exists between the Federal Government, the coalition factions and the SPD in assessing the proposals of M.S. Gorbachev, the Soviet party leader, in the disarmament sphere.

Bonn and Washington, the capital's newspaper, the GENERAL-ANZEIGER, observes, consider the proposals on medium-range nuclear weapons reduction and the readiness in principle to offer the opportunity for on-site verification to be the most important elements of the Soviet plan. All this must be discussed in Geneva and given a "toughness" test, H.-D. Genscher and M. Kampelman declared. Moreover, the FRG foreign Minister insistently called for the West to hold accelerated consultations and for the preparation of a joint response.

As for V. Ruehe, who, as a rule, always gives Soviet proposals a hostile reception, he called the USSR's new initiative in his statement "a general offensive against the American SDI."

DEPUTY CHAIRMAN ANTONOV RECEIVES FRG BUSINESSMAN

PM281117 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 23 Jan 86 Second Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Visits, Contacts"]

[Text] On 22 January A.K. Antonov, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, received W.H. Ditter, chairman of the board of the West German firm "Mannesmann A.G.", at the latter's request and had a conversation with him on certain questions of the further development of economic cooperation.

CPSU, PCI DIFFERENCES DURING NATTA VISIT CITED

LD291101 Belgrade TANJUG in English 0030 GMT 29 Jan 86

[Text] Moscow, Jan 28 (TANJUG) -- The leaders of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and the Italian Communist Party [PCI], Mikhail Gorbachev and Alessandro Natta, ended their talks in Moscow this evening by expressing mutual readiniss for "developing of friendly and constructive relations between the two parties, with full respect for mutual independence."

The formulation follows eight hours of talks, held in two rounds, which revealed close and identical stands, but also differences in the assessment of and views on the international situation and relations in the international workers' movement.

According to a Soviet Communique, the two sides are brought close together by the struggle for disarmament, prevention of the militarization of outer space, strengthening [words indistinct] and security in Europe, development of comprehensive cooperation between Italy and the Soviet Union.

Mutual respect for independence of the parties and recognition of their different positions fesulting from different assessments of and views on some problems and difficulties of the present day workd were also underlined.

The Soviet communique did not mention the questions which the two parties assess and view diffenently, i.e., on which Gorgachev and Natta failed to reach agreement, and due to which relations between the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and the Italian Communist Party (?stagnated in the past) six years.

The Italian side is said to have favourably assessed the current development processes in the Soviet Union, while the other side shows "understanding" for the strategic conceptions of the Italian Communists on the relationship between democracy and socialism.

No joint assessment could have been made of questions such as Afghanistan or Kampuchea, as was the case earlier with differences of the situation in Czechoslovakia and later in Poland, where differences berween the CPSU and the PCI still remain unsurmounted.

REPORTAGE, COMMENTARY ON USSR PROPOSAL FOR CYPRUS

PRAVDA Cites Support

PM281111 Moscow PRAVDA in Russion 23 Jan 86 Second Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Positive Response"]

[Text] Nicosia, 22 Jan-- The Cypriot Republic's government has expressed satisfaction in connection with the proposals put forward by the Soviet Union on the principles for a Cyprus settlement and ways to achieve it, describing them as constructive and positive. A statement published here notes that this step by the USSR could help eliminate the seat of tension in this region.

The Cypriot Government, it says, greatly appreciates the fact that in its initiative the Soviet Union demands an end to any actions leading to an aggravation of the situation in Cyprus, promoting the fivision of the island, of undermining intercommunity dialogue.

It welcomes the proposition that the Cyprus problem should be resolved by convening a representative international conference on Cyprus within the UN framework. It is encouraging that the Soviet Union pointed up the need to withdraw all foreign troops from the island and create a system of effective international guarantees of the independence, sovereignty, unity, and territorial integrity of the Republic of Cyprus, and also the need to respect its status as a nonaligned state, the document stresses.

The Soviet Union's new initiative is extremely topical, a statement by the Restorative Party of the Working People of Cyprus (AKEL) Central Committee Politburo, published in Nicosia, says. In putting forward proposals on the principles for a Cyprus settlement and ways to achieve it, the statement stresses, the USSR has once again demonstrated its principled stance in favor of a peaceful, just, and viable solution to the Cyprus problem in the interests of the entire Cypriot people.

AKEL welcomes the Soviet Union's initiative, fully supports it and will use all its forces to promote its implementation. The document contains an appeal to all interested parties to initiate a procedure for a peaceful, just, mutually acceptable, and viable settlement on the basis of the principles expounded in the Soviet proposals, which are completely in line with UN resolutions.

Miroshnik Comments

NC292953 Moscow in Greek to Cyprus 1800 GMT 29 Jan 86

[Commentary by Nikolay Miroshnik, "former PRAVDA correspondent in Greece and Cyprus"]

[Text] The Soviet Union's recent official proposals on the principles for a settlement of the Cyprus problem were yet another concrete manifestation of our country's consistent and substantive policy in the eastern Miditerranean and its relations with the friendly state of Cyprus.

This document has shown once again that the Soviet Union is a loyal friend of the Cyprus Republic, not only in words but in deeds, and that it wants an equitable solution of the Cyprus problem.

After a careful reading of the latest Soviet proposals, anyone with even the slightest knowledge of the history of developments in and around Cyprus cannot help but notice that many of these proposals' points were submitted in the past to the interested parties for discussion. Let us recall the Soviet proposal for a representative international conference on Cyprus under UN auspices. As is stressed in the document recently published in Moscow, such a conference would be a tangible way of guaranteeing a radical solution to the international aspects of the Cyprus problem.

The Soviet Union actually launched such an initiative more than 10 years ago. That its implementation could have contributed to a just settlement to the benefit of all Cypriots has already been confirmed by the immediate support given to this latest initiative by the Cypriot leadership and people, and by all who truly wish to see an independent, sovereign, united, and territorially integral Cyprus. However, due to the delaying tactics adopted by NATO, where the main role is played by the United States, this sort of conference has not been convened. This was even more true in subsequent years, when these same circles made every effort to circumvent the United Nations and remove this authoritative international body from a settlement of the Cyprus problem.

Despite all the undermining activities in this area, our country maintains its consistent support for an international conference. This is based on the quite justifiable belief that it is exactly this sort of representative forum that can guarantee a mutually acceptable and viable solution to the external aspects of the Cyprus problem. It would also put an end to the behind-the-scenes efforts of Western countries to bring the island into the aggressive NATO alliance and to transform its soil into a springboard against vital arteries in the Near and Middle East.

The largely new point in the latest Soviet proposals on Cyprus is that they envisage the principles and means for a multilateral settlement of the Cyprus problem. They take the interests of all parties into account, and can be a realistic basis for the elaboration of a multilateral agreement. The timeliness of these new Soviet proposals will become even more obvious if we remember that the opponents of an independent and nonaligned Cyprus have recently become active in an attempt to make the division of the island permanent and to propel the republic down the road of unquestioning submission to NATO interests. Pressure in this direction is exerted on Cyprus by Atlantic circles both at home and abroad.

As the Soviet document sresses, under these circumstances, the stagnation of the Cyprus problem poses a threat to the existence of the Cyprus Republic as an independent, sovereign, territorially integral, united, and nonaligned state. By definition, this threat is a cause of great anxiety to the Soviet Union.

Therefore, our country again spoke seriously in support of the Cypriots' long-held aspirations. It is now up to the interested parties to speak. We would like to hope that this time political realism and a desire for peace and goodneighborly relations will vanquish temporary political expediencies regarding these parties' position a settlement of the Cyprus problem.

Ankara Radio Reports Cited

LD291119 Moscow in Turkish to Turkey 1530 GMT 28 Jan 86

[Unattributed commentary: "The Freedom and Independence of Cyprus Must Be Preserved"]

[Excerpts] The Soviet proposals for a comprehensive settlement of the Cyprus problem are being commented upon widely both in the world press and in the press of that is of Cyprus, Greece, and Turkey.

Let me remind you, dear listeners, of the substance of the Soviet proposals for the comprehensive settlement of the Cyprus problem. The Soviet Union is proposing the convening of an international conference, with the participation of both communities on the island, and Greece, Turkey, and all the countries which are members of the Security Council, for ending tension in this island country. As is pointed out in the Soviet proposals, a document providing for the demilitarization of the island, the withdrawal of all foreign forces, and the abolition of all foreign military forces there may be signed at the conclusion of the conference. As you can see, dear listeners, both the relaxation of the tension created in Cyprus and the peaceful future of the Greek and Turkish Cypriots depends on settling the key questions, which the Soviet Union considers as fundamental in its proposals.

The Cyprus Government, in a statement issued in Nicosia, expressed its appreciation of the Soviet Union's demand in its proposals that actions of any kind contributing to causing tension in the situation on the island and leading to keeping the island divided and hampering intercommunal dialogue should end.

As for NATO countries, they maintain, as they always have, that there is nothing new in the Soviet proposals, thus disclosing their opposition. Similar reports appeared in the Turkish press. It must be said, though, that come realistic veiws were indeed voiced in the Ankara radio's transmissions. For example, Ankara Radio said last Friday that Moscow's proposals did contain theses that the Turkish Government supported. This refers to seeking a settlement through intercommunal talks, cooperation with the UN secretary general, and the withdrawl of all foreign forces from the island.

Ankara Radio also stated that Trukey would withdraw its forces on the island following a peaceful settlement of the Cyprus problem.

Before concluding our talks, let me state that the Soviet proposals were favorably received at the United Nation headquarters, and it was stated that implementing them would lead to lifting the serious danger threatening Cyprus and would extricate the Cyprus problem from the impasse into which it has been pushed by th opposed to a Cyprus settlement.

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT HOLDS SESSION IN BRUSSELS

EEC-CEMA Ties Urged

LD282201 Moscow TASS in English 1736 GMT 28 Jan 86

[Text] Brussels, January 28 TASS -- The opinion in favour of a speedy establishment of mutually advantageous business relations between the European Ecomonic Community (EEC) and the Council for Mutual Ecomonic Assistance (CMEA) was expressed by H. Seeler, deputy from the Social Democratic Party of Germany, at a meeting of the Commission for External Economic Relations of European Parliament held here.

He was the main speaker of the commission when the question of the development of commercial ties of the 12 EEC countries with the CMEA member countries was discussed.

"I witnessed everywhere vast interest in the establishment of relations of cooperation between the EEC and CMEA," H. Seeler stressed in the report. He said that the conditions for the normalization of such relations are now better than ever.

H. Seeler said taht much interest is shown in the EEC countries in "new five years plans of the ecomomic development in the CMEA countreis which place the emphasis on the increase of the labor producitvity and production of consumer goods." The speaker noted in this connection that the states of European Economic Community could contribute to the implementation of these grandiose tasks. "These plans offer good opportunties for export by the EEC the more so since CMEA countries are neighbours of the EEC countries and have a truly nuge potential for growth".

On his part an official spolesman for the commission of the European communites told newsmen that the leadership of the execituve body of the EEC intends to give a positive answer to the proposal of the CMEA Executive Committee to establish relations of cooperation between the two organizations.

U.S. Sanctions On Libya Rejected

LD281924 Moscow TASS in English 1848 GMT 28 Jan 86

[Text] Moscow, January 28 TASS -- TASS news analyst Vasiliy Kharkov writes:

Washington's stubborn attempts to draw West European states to American sanctions against Libya in connection with absurd charges of its being involved in international terrorism, have suffered a failure. The extra proof of that was the Brussels session of the foreign ministers of 12 countries, members of the European Economic Community (EEC). The EEC refused to support the Washington-launched anti-Libyan campaign. A special statement adopted at the session expresses serious concern over the tension in the Mediterranean. Many Western analysts interpret that as condemnation by the Common Market countries of major American naval, obviously provocative, exercises, which are now under way off the Libyan shores.

First Deputy U.S. Secretary of State Whitehead, who was in Western Europe as a special White House emissary, was trying to put a brave face on a sorry business. Engaged in wishful thinking, he asserted that some West European countries support the U.S. anti-Libyan actions. Whitehead is now compelled to change the tone. The reaction of the foreign ministers of 12 EEC member countries to the American pressure was negative. The British newspaper DAILY TELEGRAPH qualified it as unambiguous "rebuff to Washington".

Western Europe not only refuses to participate in U.S. sanctions against Libya, but made it clear to Washington that if it looks for a pretext for military confrontation, such a course is fraught with serious consequences and will entail a storm of indignation and protest.

It is easy to explain the EEC stand. Apart from national interests of the Common Market countries, the ministers, who met in Brussels, couldn't but be influenced by the West European public opinion, which firmly denounces Washington's adventurism with regard to the sovereign state of Libya. The EEC reaction to American sanctions is all the more significant since some U.S. NATO allies more than once associated themselves with Washington's policy of state terrorism.

PRAVDA VIEWS U.S. PRESSURE ON SWEDISH EXPORTS

PM291852 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 29 Jan 86 First Edition p 5

[Yu. Kuznetsov "International Notes": "Persistent Pressure"]

[Text] Reports have appeared in the Swedish press to the effect that Stockholm's Government circles "are studying the question" of passing a special law on export controls. One of the country's biggest newspapers, SVENSKA DAGBLADET, which in many respects reflects the opinions of business circles, writes that the Swedish Foreign Ministry's trade department is examining a number of proposals regarding the text of a future law whose aim, in particular, is to... prevent the transit of U.S. high-technology products via Swedish territory to socialist countries.

These reports generated bewilderment and anxiety among Sweden's democratic public and the democratic press which assess them as yet another manifestation of the long-running process of "antagonism" between Stockholm and Washington over the question of Sweden's independent economic course and as evidence of persistent efforts by the United States to involve this Scandinavian state in a "trade war" against the Soviet Union and other socialist states.

Certain Swedish commentators observe that the fears of U.S. circles over Swedish exports are, firstly, highly exaggerated, and secondly, that the export from Sweden of "sensitive" -- from the viewpoint of the United States -- technology to, for instance, the USSR does not contravene any laws.

In whipping up anti-Soviet hysteria, the U.S. ruling circles are pretending that they are unaware of the potential of Soviet science and technology. But, after all, as is known, the same kind of technological tasks and problems have been tackled in the USSR (and this will undoubtedly continue to be the case) as in capitalist countries. Moreover, there have been many instances where Western, including American, firms have acquired the latest developments and technology from the USSR. Washington is uneasy not so much about technology which, allegedly, "ends up in the USSR," as about the strengthening of its position in the increasingly fierce competitive struggle with its rival partners in West Europe, including Sweden.

Looking back of the history of the issue, the Swedish newspaper NORRSKENFLAMMAN writes that the U.S. embargo policy and its impact on the Swedish economy are one of the most somber phenomena in the entire postwar period. It is known that there have been occasions when representatives of Swedish business circles have been summoned to the United States so that there they may "answer" for certain "transgressions" and when the Americans have imposed major fines on their enterprises. Representatives of the U.S. Administration have made and do make tours of Sweden "for the purpose of monitoring how enterprises there carry out U.S. instructions." The lists of goods subject to U.S. prohibition which have been presented to Swedish industrialists are becoming ever longer. Because of the unceremonious U.S. definitions concerning so-called "dual use" equipment, Swedish firms are prohibited from exporting even ordinary household products such as, for example, refrigerators, electric cookers, and so forth.

To say nothing of the fact that this restrictive trade practice being imposed on Sweden runs counter to that country's economic interests, further measures to toughen this policy, especially legislative acts, can lead to an undermining of the fundamental Swedish foreign policy principle of freedom from cartels.

[Soyuzy] The same SVENSKA DAGBLADET draws attention to the fact that the passing of laws regulating exports is an "especially sensitive issue for Sweden" where "every idea of this kind has for a long time now been rejected out of consideration for the principles of free trade."

AUSTRIAN COMMUNIST PARTY DISCUSSES 1987 ELECTIONS

LD300029 Moscow TASS in English 2030 GMT 29 Jan 86

[Text] Vienna, January 29 TASS -- A plenum of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Austria was held here. It discussed the preparation of the party for the elections to the Nationalrat (parliament) to be held in the spring of 1987.

It was pointed out in the report delivered by Hans Kalt, member of the Political Bureau, secretary of the Central Committee of the party, and during the debates that the elections will pass in the atmosphere of the stepping up of the struggle on the problems of the future of the nationalised industry, the budget and taxation policy. The plenum decided to use to the utmost the resources of the party for the consolidation of its position during the preparation for the elections.

FURTHER REPORTS ON PDRY INSURRECTION AFTERMATH

Leader Thanks USSR

LD291846 Moscow World Service in English 1800 GMT 29 Jan 86

[Text] The acting president of South Yemen, Haydar abu Bakr al-Attas, has described as the main task of the country the speedy elimination of the consequences of the January 13 events. In an address to the nation he said that the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] would do its utmost to guarantee a normal life and help people restore thanked the Soviet Union for supporting the people of his country in trying times. City transport is reported to have resumed its operation in Aden, papers are published, and people have filled the streets. Reports are also coming about the stabilization of the situation in Abayan province, where tension had remained. In the north of the country troops are approaching the settlement Mukayris to establish control over it. There have been public rallies in support of the country's leadership in a number of provinces.

Official Says Situation Calm

LD291251 Moscow World Service in English 1200 GMT 29 Jan 86

[Text] The situation in the Peoples Democratic Repubic of Yemen is now calm, with the government and the Yemen Socialist Party being in full control. This has been stated at a Moscow news conference by Sayf (Sa'il), Khalid member of the party's Central Committee.

He spoke of vigorous restoration efforts in the capital. The city is receiving water, electricity, and food supplies. Steps are being taken to restore health care services to normal functioning. On behalf of the Central Committee of the Yemeni Socialist Party Sayf (Sa'il) Khalid thanked the Soviet Union and other socialist countries for help.

PDRY Spokesman Meets Ambassadors

GF291736 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 29 Jan 86

[Text] Brother Sayf (Sa'il) Khalid, member of the VSP Central Committee and our charge d'affaires in the USSR, met with the ambassadors of socialist countries in Moscow this morning. During the meeting Brother Sayf (Sa'il) briefed the representatives on the statement issued by the second extraordinary session of the YSP Central Committee last Friday, 24 January. He also explained to them in detail the bloody and tragic events to which the PDRY was subjected on 13 January and the results of the liquidation coup attempt which was planned by adventurer 'Ali Nasir Muhammad and his clique at the encouragement of the imperialist and reactionary forces hostile to the national and progressive regime in our country and to the socialist course.

Brother Sayf (Sa'il) highly assessed the role of the socialist countries, foremost of which is the Soviet Union, in supporting the PDRY and the position they expressed in solidarity with our country and people during the recent events -- a position which is embodied in their warning against the danger of foreign interference in the internal affairs of the PDRY.

Brother Sayf (Sa'il) also affirmed that our country will continue to verify the tasks of the national and democratic revolution with its socialist concepts despite the difficult hardships resulting from the attempt by 'Ali Nasir Muhammad and his clique to lead our country astray from the socialist course. He also affirmed that the PDRY will continue to develop its internationalist and principled relations with the socialist countries, foremost of which is the Soviet Union.

Isma'il Treated in Moscow

GF291215 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 29 Jan 86 p 1

[Text] Sanaa -- Sources arriving in the PDRY from Sanaa yesterday said that 'Abd al-Fatah Isma'il was taken to Moscow for treatment. The sources added that he was seriously injured on his forehead and under the throat during the first day of the events in the PDRY. It has been rumoured during the beginning of the events that 'Abd al-Fatah Isma'il was aboard a Soviet ship in Aden undergoing treatment after sustaining his injuries.

Meanwhile, well-informed sources stated that the three sons of 'Abd al-Fatah Isma'il were transported to the Soviet Embassy in Aden after the second day of the fighting so as to secure their safety.

AL-QADHDHAFI SAYS U.S. MANEUVERS 'UNWARRANTED'

LD291404 Moscow TASS in English 1335 GMT 29 Jan 86

[Text] Paris, January 29 TASS -- The Libyan people regard the U.S. provocative manoeuvring off the Libyan coast as an act of unwarranted aggression, leader of the Libyan revolution Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi has declared.

Interviewed by the French television company Antenne-2, he described Washington's foreign policy as a policy of state-sponsored terrorism which jeopardises peace and security worldwide. The U.S. logic boils down to threats, military exercises and economic boycott, to attempts to liquidate persons who do you suit Washington. [as received]

The reasons of the anti-Libyan campaign launched by the American Administration, Al-Qadhdhafi said, lie in Libya's refusal to give in to U.S. diktat. He stressed that the Libyan Jamahiriyah does not threaten, nor is going to threaten any one. "We want to develop our economy and culture in peace," the leader of the Libyan revolution stressed. He suggested banning any military exercises in the Mediterranean and the adjoining territory of all states in the region.

"Washington's Playing With Fire" is the title of an article in the newspaper L'HUMANITE on the U.S. provocative manoevures off the Libyan coast. Washington's aggressive policies, it notes, seriously worry the Mediterranean countries and lead to greater isolation of the United States.

ARGENTINE FOREIGN MINISTER'S VISIT REPORTED

Economic Talks Held

LD301036 Moscow TASS in English 1024 GMT 30 Jan 86

[Text] Moscow, January 30 TASS -- Konstantin Katushev, chairman of the U.S.S.R. State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations, and Dante Caputo, minister of foreign affairs and religion of Argentina, held talks here today to discuss ways for the development of economic cooperation between the two countries.

The Soviet side expressed its readiness to cooperate with Argentina in carrying out joint economic projects in such fields as machine building, including agricultural machine building, the power and mining industries, and transport, primarily the rail transport.

Joint manufacture of different equipment and other products, it was noted at the talks, could become one of the forms of development of bilateral business relations.

Trade Accord Signed

LD291127 Moscow TASS in English 1043 GMT 29 Jan 86

[Text] Moscow, January 29 TASS -- The U.S.S.R. and Argentina today signed an agreement under the terms of which Argentina will deliver 4.5 million tons of fodder grain and soybeans a year to the Soviet Union in 1986-1990. The two countries also exchanged notes on the supply of Soviet-manufactured machines and equipment to Argentina in the current five-year period. The documents were signed for the Soviet Union by Boris Aristov, minister of foreign trade of the U.S.S.R., and for Argentina -- by Dante Caputo, minister of foreign affairs of Argentina.

Shevardnadze Speaks at Luncheon

LD291737 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1538 GMT 29 Jan 86

[Text] Moscow, 29 (TASS) -- The Soviet Union and Argentina can serve as a good example of the practical implementation of the policy of peaceful coexistence of states and equal and mutually beneficial cooperation in all spheres, founded on a respect for the interests, stances, and viewpoints of one another. This was stated by Eduard Shevardnadze, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR foreign affairs minister. He gave a luncheon today in honor of Dante Mario Caputo, Argentine minister of foreign relations and worship.

Eduard Shevardnadze stressed that relations between the two countries have good prospects and there is a wide scope for the development of links and the deepening of cooperation in international affairs. He gave a lofty appraisal of the stance of Argentina as regards the new initiative of the Soviet Union, which was put forward in the statement by Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee on 15 January. "The program for completely freeing earth of nuclear weapons and preventing the militarization of space, the elimination of chemical weapons and other means of mass destruction, the realization of measures directed toward lessening the danger of war and consolidating peace has received support from the Argentine Government. Such an attitude is expressed in the message of reply from R. Alfonsin to M.S. Gorbachev," Eduard Shevardnadze said.

The readiness of Argentina, jointly with other countries which signed the Delhi declaration a year ago, to further by practical means the establishment, as a first step, of a joint Soviet-U.S. moratorium on nuclear blasts, the comprehension by the Argentine side of the significance of the Soviet decision to extend the moratorium on these blasts -- which it introduced unilaterally -- is a confirmation of the responsible and mature approach of the Argentine Government to the task of the transition to a really stable and reliable peace [mir]," Eduard Shevardnadze said.

Touching on the situation which has unfolded in Central America, the Soviet foreign affairs minister pointed to the violations there of norms of international law sanctified by the UN Charter. "What we are talking about is a policy of pressure and threats against the sovereign state of Nicaragua, attempts to interfere in its affairs, to foist on the people of that country systems which are alien to it, and to deprive it of the opportunity of determining its fate itself," he said.

"The Soviet Union, which unfailingly comes out in defense of the sovereign rights of the Nicaraguan people, and of many others, and favors a just political settlement in Central America, pays due respect to the efforts of Latin American countries who are proceeding in this direction," Eduard Shevardnadze said. He expressed the conviction that, with the cooperation of all peace-loving states and political forces, it will prove possible to avert the threat of conflict in Central America, to give the peoples of this region the opportunity to develop in their own way, and to engage in urgent matters of solid economic development without fear of any form of outside interference.

The Soviet foreign affairs minister expressed concern about the tense situation remaining in the south Atlantic. "The Soviet Union, he said, resolutely condemns the course toward militarization of this region. Such a policy bears a direct threat for all Latin American states, and not merely for them, for by this policy a dangerous center of conflict is being perpetuated there."

On the problem of the Malvinas [Falklands] Islands, Eduard Shevardnadze spoke in support of Argentina's course toward a peaceful settlement by means of negotiations with Great Britain on the basis of the existing UN decisions.

Speaking on international economic relations problems, the Soviet minister of foreign affairs stressed that "the serious difficulties and obstacles created by the policy of the major capitalist states to the development of these relations on a healthy and just basis, strike hard at the interests of the developing countries. A huge and ever increasing foreign debt is arising as an insurmountable barrier on the path to the socioeconomic progress of the peoples of these countries." He stressed that "the program set out by the Soviet Union for nuclear disarmament and for preventing an arms race in space indicates paths to the solution of the most complex problems of the present day, including economic problems."

In conclusion, Eduard Shevardnadze stated that the forthcoming arrival of Raul Alfonsin, the president of the Republic of Argentina, in the Soviet Union would be a major event in relations between the two countries and would move them onto a new and higher level.

Caputo Speech Reported

LD291745 Moscow TASS in English 1723 GMT 29 Jan 86

[Text] Moscow, January 29 TASS -- Peace is an indispensable, the most important condition for relations among states. With the existence of different social systems, the principle of peaceful coexistence is not only the cornerstone of diplomatic relations among states but also the only way for the globe's survival, said Argentina's Minister of Foreign Affairs Dante Mario Caputo speaking at a luncheon here today.

The luncheon was given in his honour by USSR Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze.

Now that humanity is faced with the burning task of preserving peace on earth, when new horizons open in space, the attempts to turn the earth and outer space into a potential theatre of operations are regarded as extremely irresponsible by entire humanity, the Argentine minister said.

The minister said that the programme of complete disarmament by the year 2000 advanced by the USSR is the most important initiative advanced in this sphere so far.

Touching upon the situation in Latin American countries, Dante Mario Caputo said that the problem of the situation in Central America and the conditions of social and economic development of Latin American countries cannot be resolved in isolation and unilaterally. Peace, development, democracy, security are threatened by the crisis in Central America. Its causes are known: they are authoritarianism, glaring social inequity, poverty. When the people is kept apart from political and economic life, this inevitably breeds violence, war, lack of security. The Central American problem affects all countries of the continent.

The minister said that Argentina always supported the activity of the Contadora Group, viewing it as a mechanism which is capable of ensuring the quest for a durable solution of the problem of Central American states. Argentina entered the group of the support for the Contadora, signed recently in Venezuela a declaration which opens new hopes for the settlement of the situation in the region through talks.

Argentina is ever ready to resolve together with Great Britain the question of the sovereignty of the Malvinas [Falklands], the South Sandwich Islands and South Georgia though a dialogue. The minister expressed gratitude of the Government and people of Argentina to the USSR Government for the support for the United Nations resolutions on that matter.

Gromyko, Caputo Talk

LD291823 Moscow TASS in English 1809 GMT 29 Jan 86

[Text] Moscow, January 29 TASS -- Some problems of the present-day international situation and questions of Soviet-Argentine relations were in the focus of attention of member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee, President of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet Andrey Gromyko and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Religion of the Argentine Republic Dante Mario Caputo when they had a conversation in the Kremlin today.

Andrey Gromyko stressed that the Soviet Union consistently continues the struggle for universal peace. The new historic initiatives set out in the statement of the General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee Mikhail Gorbachev pursue a clear aim: to achieve the complete elimination of nuclear arms everywhere within the shortest period of time, only 15 years.

Our state has taken an important step towards disarmament, Andrey Gromyko said. The fundamental newness and significance of the Soviet programme of the complete elimination of nuclear arms is that it is concrete in content and in the schedules of its implementations.

It is important also that the Soviet Union has decided to extend for three months, that is till March 31, 1986 its earlier announced unilateral moratorium on any nuclear explosions. The ball is now in the U.S. court.

The Soviet Union stresses again that drastic reduction of nuclear arms is possible only when the USSR and the USA refuse to create, test and deploy of space strike arms.

Dante Mario Caputo pointed to a positive attitude of Argentina's government to the Soviet peace initiatives. And he stressed that the Soviet proposals of January 15, as an important political document, create a good foundation for practical solution of the questions of arms limitation and disarmament.

When the situation in Central America was discussed, the Soviet side confirmed the support for a peaceful political settlement in the area with a steady observance of the sovereignty, the right of peoples to decide how they should live, what course they should conduct. Dante Mario Caputo expressed concern over tension in Central America and proclaimed the wish of Argentina, other Latin American countries to promote the easing of that tension.

Discussing bilateral ties between the Soviet Union and Argentina, the sides noted with satisfaction their development.

Bilateral Relations Discussed

LD291940 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1800 GMT 29 Jan 86

[Text] Andrey Andreyevich Gromyko, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, received today at the Kremlin Dante Mario Caputo, minister of foreign relations and worship of the Republic of Argentina, who is on an official visit to the Soviet Union, and those accompanying him.

During their conversation there was an extensive discussion of some problems related to the present international situation and questions relating to Soviet-Argentine relations.

Comrade Gromyko stressed that the Soviet Union is consistently continuing its struggle for universal peace. The new historic initiatives, set forth in the statement by Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, pursue a clear goal, that of achieving in a very short space of time, just 15 years, the total elimination of nuclear weapons throughout the entire globe.

The Soviet side stressed that the Soviet leadership highly appraises the efforts of Argentina, which together with other countries belonging to the group of six -- Greece, India, Mexico, Tanzania, and Sweden -- have submitted constructive proposals to curtail the armaments race, to prevent the militarization of space, and to declare a moratorium on nuclear explosions. The Argentine minister was told that these ideas are in accord with the Soviet approach to a solution of these important problems.

The visitor's attention was drawn to Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev's recent message to Argentine President Alfonsin. The message contained information about Soviet initiatives. Dante Caputo noted the Argentine Government's positive attitude toward the peaceful Soviet initiatives.

In their consideration of the situation in Central America the Soviet side stressed its support for a peaceful political settlement in the area with strict observance of sovereignty and the right of the peoples to decide for themselves how they should live and what course they should follow.

Discussing bilateral links between the Soviet Union and Argentina the sides noted with satisfaction their onward development.

Press Conference Held

LD292013 Moscow TASS in English 1937 GMT 29 Jan 86

[Text] Moscow, January 29 TASS -- Speaking at a press conference at the Press Centre of the USSR Foreign Ministry today, Dante Caputo, Argentina's minister of foreign affairs and religion, highly assessed the results of his talks in Moscow. "My meetings with Soviet leaders were held in an atmosphere of exceptional openness", the minister said. "A constructive dialogue between our countries took place. The talks covered both bilateral relations and international problems".

Answering questions from journalists, Dante Caputo said, specifically, that Argentina views the extension by the Soviet Union of the moratorium on all nuclear explosions till March 31, 1986 as a positive act of great importance. Dwelling on possible contribution of the countries, signatories to the Delhi declaration, to the achievement of arrangement between the great powers on the question of the complete elimination of nuclear arms, the minister said that meeting of representatives of those countries will shortly be held on that problem.

Dante Caputo condemned the militarisation by Great Britain of the Malvinas (Falkland) Islands and emphasized the dangerousness of such actions not only for Argentina but also for other Latin American states. Setting out Argentina's stand on the crisis situation in Central America, the minister pointed to a recent meeting of representatives of the countries of the Contadora Group and countries of the Contadora support group in Venezuela. In accordance with the document adopted there he declared that the conflict in the Central American region should be made an issue for Latin American peoples alone. Dante Caputo noted that during the talks in Moscow the USSR and Argentina declared against the use of force and threat of force in Central America, for the resolution of all disputed problems in a peaceful way on the basis of the principles of non-interference in internal affairs, respect for the right of peoples to self-determination.

Much attention was paid at the press conference to the problem of external indebtedness of developing countries. Dante Caputo stressed that this is a political problem for those countries, including Latin American countries. The foreign debt of Latin American countries now exceeds 350 billion dollars. In the past four years alone they paid out over 100 billion dollars as the interest on the debt. This is tantamount to capital investments of all countries on the continent over a whole year. The consolidation of democracy in Latin America cannot be achieved without a positive solution of the problem of the foreign debt, the minister said.

Dante Caputo said that an agreement on cultural and scientific cooperation between the two countries, an agreement on the deliveries of Argentine fodder grain and soybeans to the USSR were signed during the official visit to the Soviet Union. There was an exchange of notes on the deliveries of Soviet machinery and equipment to Argentina. In this connection the minister stressed that both sides intend to take measures for a gradual balancing of bilateral trade.

IZVESTIYA'S BOVIN VIEWS NICARAGUA'S PROBLEMS

PM291143 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 26 Jan 86 Morning Edition p 5

[Part I of own political observer A. Bovin report: "Nicaragua in Struggle"]

[Text] In December of last year I visited Nicaragua as a delegation member of the Soviet Committee for Solidarity with Latin American Peoples. It is difficult in a mere 8 days to grasp the problems of a country which you are visiting for the first time.

And it is no less difficult, reflecting on what you have seen and heard, to sort it into the neat "stacks" which usually make up a newspaper article. Nonetheless, drawing on the many conversations which I had in Managua and elsewhere, I would like to tell the readers of our newspaper about the main aspects of life in this Central American country which is passing through a difficult, a crucial stage of its history.

But let me begin with the main thing. And the main thing is that the country is in struggle, the country is waging war. A war which was started by the counterrevolution against the revolution. By external counterrevolution, organized, supported, and egged on by the United States and backed by Central America's reactionary circles. And internal counterrevolution -- former Somoza supporters, a certain section of the propertied classes, and renegades who have betrayed the cause of the revolution.

War is war. In 1985 the struggle against the counterrevolutionary terror claimed the lives of some 1,140 officers and men of the Sandinist People's Army and People's Militia fighters. Some 280 civilians have perished at the "contras'" hands. Over the same period, units of the Sandinist People's Army killed more than 4,600 mercenaries. This is the death toll.

But the war unleashed by the counterrevolution does not only claim lives. Because the combat operations take place in economically important areas they have a pernicious effect on the national economy. Many mines have been closed, the timber industry has been paralyzed, serious damage has been caused to the fishing industry and the production of the staple food crops (corn and harricot beans). In 1984 12,000 hectares of coffee plantations and 5,000 hectares of tobacco plantations have fallen into disuse.

In 1985 alone, the government was forced to use 25 percent of the gross national product, almost half the national budget, for defense needs. One-fifth of the able-bodied population was withdrawn from productive labor. People are departing for the front and there is no one to pick the coffee, cut the sugar cane, to teach, and to practice medicine...

The losses and expenditure which run into billions are bound to affect the state of the economy. And if we add the trade embargo introduced and implemented by the United States to the military factors, if we take into account the situation on world markets where prices for traditional Nicaraguan export goods have fallen sharply, and consider the objective obstacles which hamper the implementation of major transformations in this backward country plundered by its own and foreign masters, and also the possible -- and in conditions of drastic social changes even inevitable -- mistakes and miscalculations, then we get some idea of the causes of the considerable difficulties which confront the Nicaraguan economy.

Labor productivity and output volumes have decreased. There are shortages of essential goods which have led to sharp price rises on the black market. Inflation has reached 300 percent. Many people are unemployed.

In order to ease the working people's situation, rationing has been introduced in respect of a number of industrial goods and food products. "Workers' supply centers" are being established where it is possible to buy food at state prices. Wages have been increased (by 58-100 percent). All this does not resolve the fundamental problems, of course. It is extremely difficult to tackle them in conditions of "subsistence economy" -- as the present state of the Nicaraguan national economy and the thrust of its economic policy are described.

Everything is subordinated to routing the counterrevolution. The process of national reconstruction which was begun immediately after the triumph of the revolution has slowed down. However, as I was told in Managua "subsistence economy" does not mean that they have given up their plans for the future. Construction and assimilation of major production projects intended above all for processing agricultural produce is continuing.

The economic problems are closely tied up with social problems. After toppling Somoza, the sociopolitical forces which had jointly opposed the dictatorial regime began to split up. The Sandinists and political groupings close to them favored a restructuring of the foundations of social life. The 4 November 1984 elections to the National Assembly gave the Sandinists 67 percent of votes (61 of 96 mandates), that is to say, they demonstrated that their program enjoys majority support.

The political opponents of the Sandinists -- the "Democratic Coordination Commission" (a bloc of center and right-of-center parties), the private business supreme council, and the top echelons of the Catholic Church which mainly express the interests of the Nicaraguan middle bourgeoisie -- favor switching Nicaragua to the path of "normal" bourgeoisie-democratic development. Capitalism minus Somoza plus preservation of the economic and political dependence on the United States -- this is approximately how this platform could be summed up.

The opposition's sympathies are on the side of the "contras" and the Americans. "All legal channels are closed," Eduardo Rivas Gasteazoro, president of the "Democratic Coordination Commission" complained in July 1985. "All one can do is to sit at home and wait for an armed intervention." Returning from the Vatican last summer, Archbishop of Managua, Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo celebrated his first mass in Miami before former Somoza supporters and "contras" leaders.

And they do not stop at complaints and celebrations of masses. The opposition is calling on young people to refuse to serve in the Army, it organizes sabotage in industry and agriculture, and provokes strikes. In short, it tries to destabilize Nicaragua from within and thus to help the Americans and the "contras." In these conditions the state of emergency was reintroduced 15 October 1985.

Opposition parties and political opponents of the Sandinists continue to operate on a legal basis. But it is asked of them to observe revolutionary legality and not to engage in activities which are against the national interests. This has caused a storm of protests in Washington. However, in among the noisy lamentations about "human rights" sensible voices can also be heard. Measures implemented under the state of emergency, a WASHINGTON POST correspondent wrote, "testify to the growing resolve of the Sandinist leadership to prevent its political opponents from adopting any kind of measures which could, albeit indirectly, assist the insurgent forces which enjoy U.S. support and whose aim is to topple the government." This is exactly what is happening.

Chile comes to mind. Salvador Allende rejected the thought of a counterrevolutionary coup. He did not introduce a state of emergency. And they killed him. They killed the revolution and democracy in Chile. And it is laudable that this lesson has been learned, that the revolution is defending itself.

Indeed, the revolution is defending itself. Nicaragua is an agrarian country. And the effectiveness of the rebuff to the counterrevolution, just like the scope and pace of social transformations depends largely on the stance, mood, and behavior of the peasantry.

As the experience of many revolutions shows, the peasantry is a difficult, intractable material for achieving swift and profound changes. Age-old habits and prejudices die hard and the inertia of the past lingers on. All this creates objective difficulties for the new rule. But there are also other difficulties created by too much haste and excessive radicalism in changing the existing, established way of life.

These general postulates apply to Nicaragua, too, albeit with certain reservations. This helps to explain why there are peasants, even poor peasants among the "contras." I was told that some of the peasants are press-ganged by the former Somoza supporters to join their detachments. But I was also told that others are joining the "contras" because they are afraid of, do not understand, or refuse to accept the new order. Consequently the struggle against the counterrevolution is not confined to military actions. It also involves multifaceted, hard, and painstaking work in all spheres -- political, social, economic, and cultural -- work called upon to change the attitudes, sympathies and antipathies of the peasant mass.

This work is under way. And I am confident that it would have produced tangible results long ago but for the constant support for the counterrevolution from abroad, but for the U.S. policy which blatantly flouts elementary norms of international law.

NICARAGUAN HELICOPTER FIRED ON BY 'CIA MERCENARIES'

LD271513 Moscow TASS in English 1346 GMT 27 Jan 86

[Text] Managua, January 27 TASS -- CIA mercenaries, based in Costa Rica, have committed an armed provocation against Nicaragua. As was reported by Nicaragua's Defence Ministry, on January 25 a Somoza gang fired from Costa Rican territory on a helicopter of the Sandinista Air Force, which was on its way towards the Nicaraguan frontier La Penca Point. The helicopter was damaged in the provocative action.

SOVIET, COLOMBIAN TALKS HELD ON COOPERATION

Aristov, Economic Minister Meet

PM221525 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 22 Jan 86 Morning Edition p 4

[TASS report under the general headline "Economic Relations Expanding"]

[Text] A conversation has taken place between Soviet Foreign Trade Minister B.I. Aristov and Colombian Economic Development Minister G. Castro Guerrero, who is in Moscow to take part in the fourth session of the Soviet-Colombian Intergovernmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific, and Technical Cooperation. Questions concerning the state of and prospects for developing trade and economic ties between the two countries were examined.

J. Gomez Restrepo, Colombian ambassador to the Soviet Union, took part in the conversation.

Talks End

LD221649 Moscow World Service in English 1600 GMT 22 Jan 86

[Text] A session of the Soviet-Colombian Intergovernmental Commission for Cooperation in Trade, Economy, Science and Technology has ended in Moscow. A protocol was signed saying that the contacts between the two countries in these spheres continue to expand on the basis of equality and mutual benefit. Steps were planned to further expand cooperation. The Soviet Union expressed readiness to increase the shipment of machinery and equipment to Colombia.